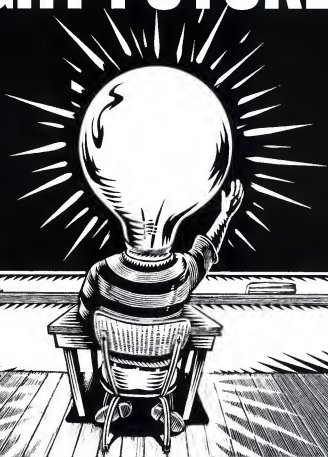
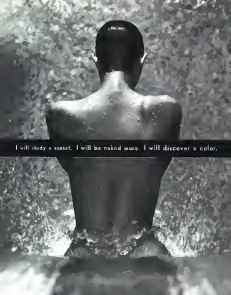


Maclean's

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BRIGHT KIDS BRIGHT FUTURES?





I will study a sunset. I will be naked more. I will discover a color.

I will put first things last.

I will memorize clouds.

I will be amphibious.

I will eat a mango.

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It's

different

out

here.

NORWEGIAN
CRUISE LINE

I will get a really good tan.



Maclean's

CANADA'S WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE
AUGUST 29, 1994 VOL. 187 NO. 35

CONTENTS

2 EDITORIAL

4 LETTERS

6 OPINING NOTES/PASSAGES

9 COLUMN: CHARLES GORDON

10 CANADA

Veterans of the merchant marine aspire for justice from Ottawa, academic celebrates the survival of their traditions, politics, not policy, set the tone in the Quebec election, says poet columnist Benoit Aubin.

18 WORLD

The Clinton administration rushes to stem a rising tide of Cuban refugees, France prosecutes the notorious terrorist Carlos the Jackal, vibrant ballet studios in Havana.

28 BUSINESS

An Ontario court blocks the wheeler on a scrap at Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd., two-hour Marilyn Monroe has broken with family tradition to become Canada's king of the road.

32 THE NATION'S BUSINESS: PETER C. NEWMAN

38 COVER

44 DISPATCHES

46 SPORTS

The 20 Commonwealth Games get off to a rousing start in Victoria, Canadian women gather ice up against the best in a Canadian classic.

50 WEATHER

Subsolar divide may be causing a cooling trend that partially offsets the so-called greenhouse effect.

51 PEOPLE

53 FILMS

Oliver Stone concentrates the American education with violence.

53 TELEVISION

Second World War veterans recall their ordeal at the Buchenwald concentration camp, there is a factor in the house as the city's new fall lineup.

56 FOTHERINGHAM

With the 1994 Commonwealth Games on the horizon, the city of Victoria is preparing for the event. The city's new fall lineup.



BY JOHN MACLEANS

Bright kids, bright futures?

36 Researchers now believe that one in five children is gifted. As other nations recognize the wisdom of investing in their star pupils, many Canadian schools persist in defining children with special talents as children without special needs. What price will Canada pay for shortchanging the best and the brightest?

Big Brother on patrol

10 Photo-ear tickling of car owners whose vehicles are caught speeding spreads to Ontario from Alberta, and an outcry in defence of civil rights grows louder. But governments see a cash bonanza in the new policing system.



BY ANDREW MACLEANS



BY JOHN MACLEANS

Poetry on the ocean

44 With brightly colored spinnaker sails billowing, Chester Race Week—the most celebrated week in Atlantic Canada's most celebrated summer village—got under way, and the legendary South Shore Nova Scotia mecca drew its traditional cast of rich and famous for the event.

OPENING NOTES

COMMONWEALTH NOTEBOOK

The XV Commonwealth Games have had their share of problems—from a plague of snafus at major sports sites to an overvalued official guidelines. As thousands of athletes, journalists and TV cameras wait for the first look for the official opening, the Games continued to present a higher side.

■ It may be Canada's official summer pastime, but field hockey is negatively an unsupported that Commonwealth nations had to go to Britain to find the 600 lacrosse sticks used in the opening ceremonies. Hence the, a Massachusetts coach of hockey and lacrosse equipment, donated the gear, worth about \$50,000. Lacrosse is a demonstration sport at the Games.

■ The Commonwealth athletes still busy to be caught taking advantage of its free pass on Victoria's buses in the Royal Bitchman Prince Selkirk (Bathurst of British, who is owned as the shotgun competitor. The games, who arrived on Aug. 16, is the brother of the Sultan of Brunei, one of the world's richest men. Brunei has a lot of money in its treasury for himself and his nation since Aug. 8, including a stretch while Lincoln for his own use.

■ Baseball started sports grounds (owned of a bet can place money on the Commonwealth Games with a bookie in Australia, Central, at Alice Springs, in going odds on national credit titles as well as individual performances. Last Friday's morning line was Canada 3-1 odds to lead in the medal count, with Canadian runner Angela Chalmers going 5-4 odds to win gold in the women's 200-meter event; England's Lillian Christie going the same odds to win the men's 100 m.

■ The Commonwealth Marley leave a constant in the mouth of at least one Victoria chocolate maker. The



Chalmers: the higher side of the Games

By's Chocolates produced 7,800 special-edition milk chocolate sculptures, each packaged in a publicized box featuring the words "Commonwealth Games, Victoria '94" on the outside and signatures of Canada's living royalty. Purity's hoped to sell each sculpture for \$100 of the game for \$4.35 each. Instead, they will likely be melted down. Gains of the chocolate artist's chocolate after a complaint from rival confectioner Rogers' Chocolates Ltd.—a publishing license that cost copyright infringement.



Shelton: the higher side of the Games

STRIKING OUT

Workers at Toronto's United Way charity were probably more disappointed than most. Ray Jay balls when the loss of summer were slowed by the players' strike on Aug. 12. "We're all baseball fans," says Teresa Pagnoni, public relations manager for the United Way of Greater Toronto. "Not after that when the strike began, the Jays were 15 games back of the New York Yankees in the American League East. For the United Way at least, the end of the season was definitely worth playing. For each home run awarded by John Olerud or Pat Burrell, there's a downer coupon sponsor, such as The Commonwealth Gas Co. Ltd. and Wood Gundy Ltd., contributed \$300 apiece to the charity. So far this season, the home-run program has totaled \$23,700 for the United Way and the 250 charities and social service agencies that it represents, compared with \$60,000 last year in Montreal, where the strike stalled the Expos in first place, every base stolen by center-fielder Marquis Grissom had brought the Montreal Canadiens' Hogshead and St. Lawrence hospitals \$50 apiece, with matching coupons from Grissom and the St. Joseph Foundation. In Toronto, the strike also ended the donations that pitcher Todd Stankiewicz made towards leukemia research. Stankiewicz, whose brother Jason died of the disease in the early 1980s, donated \$5,000 for each of his seven wins this season.

SPR, Peter Cavatone, manager of community relations for the Jays, says the timing of the strike near the end of the season means the effect on charities will be limited. Charity work in various general expressions by the players and all appearances, regular charity, are based in September and October. That rule was imposed to keep players' attention on baseball. Don't we wish?

A LIFE ON THE ROLLER COASTER

As Macdonald begins his class breakfast with his at Midwestern of St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S., in the mid-1950s, and has been a Conservative backroom operator ever since. During Macdonald's time years as prime minister, Macdonald earned a reputation among his critics in Ottawa as an apologist who would fiercely defend his party and leader. Now, the 58-year-old Macdonald, a private consultant in Ottawa, has not played what he calls the "true story, warts and all," of life as a political insider. An avowed socialist of 40 years on the



Macdonald (left), wife Bill (right), Macdonald, in 1984: a book on a 'scorcher' story

They never consider, Macdonald says he has, but he releases that his, as women and humans, but has "a scorcher" story, but "the story, he claims, is also applied to his former boss, in one section. Macdonald points to the cash handling of proposed changes to aid age pension in 1985 as a political turning point for Macdonald. Contrasted by a canceled elderly women outside

the House of Commons, Macdonald quickly revised a decision to limit pension index. "He showed weakness and inconsistency," those," says Macdonald. "She really said him between the eyes." Macdonald considers that Maloney, with whom he sits in touch, may not be what he has written. But, he adds, "I'm just as tough as myself as anyone else."

BACK ON TRACK

For Mary Pierce, the Montreal International tennis tournament in Montreal last week was both a comeback and a homecoming. Pierce, 28, is a Montrealer by birth—although she spent only the first four months of her life in Canada, having been raised in Florida by her American father, Jim, and the 230 Charlton and social service agencies that it represents, compared with \$60,000 last year in Montreal, where the strike stalled the Expos in first place, every base stolen by center-fielder Marquis Grissom had brought the Montreal Canadiens' Hogshead and St. Lawrence hospitals \$50 apiece, with matching coupons from Grissom and the St. Joseph Foundation. In Toronto, the strike also ended the donations that pitcher Todd Stankiewicz made towards leukemia research. Stankiewicz, whose brother Jason died of the disease in the early 1980s, donated \$5,000 for each of his seven wins this season.

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opposite-time residence in Paris where her mother or had moved after separating. Her career began in 1984 at the year's French Open, Pierce, sporting a Montreal Expos jersey, lost to a 1984 St. Louis Cardinals outfielder, Burt. Then, the spectre of her father reappeared. In June, she cancelled her Wimbledon debut after British tabloids reported that her father planned to do a dispute and send it to the stadium.

If her performance at the Montreal—her first tournament since dropping out of Wimbledon—is any indication, the Burtville became the Burtville. Pierce may well have shaken her past. The only Canadian-born competitor to win her first-round play last week, she quickly became the top favorite as she played tennis victory in preliminary matches. "We started to enjoy the simple things,"

to do before," she told reporters. With a new outlook and a winning way, the story of Mary Pierce may have only just begun.

Pierce: "enjoy the simple things"

Edited by JOE CHIRBY

PASSAGES

CAUTION: Saskatchewan government officials of any wrongdoing in connection with the 1970 prosecution of David Milgaard, 42, after a 25-month imprisonment by the RCMP. Milgaard was convicted of the Saskatoon sex slaying of Gail Miller, 20, and sentenced to life in prison, but in April, 1983, the Superior Court of Canada ordered his release pending a new trial. Instead, Saskatchewan withdrew the charges and ordered that it be removed, under the supervision of the Alberta attorney general. The RCMP found that neither Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow nor the attorney general at the time, nor prosecutors, nor police "attempted to obstruct justice in any way or were involved in any criminal wrongdoing." Milgaard has alleged in a civil damages suit that the authorities withheld knowledge of a serial killer who attacked his victims at that point, the same method employed in the Miller case. He said such knowledge could have led to his winning an earlier appeal of his conviction. Milgaard last week called the RCMP findings a "whitewash," but Saskatchewan Attorney General Robert Mitchell said, "The book has been completed and is now closed. Life goes on."

DEED: Twentieth Nobel Prize-winner Linus Pauling, 88, of prostate cancer, at his ranch near Red Sea, Calif. A scientific revolution, Pauling was best known for his belief that large doses of vitamin C could save all colds, cancer and cardiovascular disease.

DEED: Weightlifter Paul Anderson, 51, the 1973 Olympic's strongest man, at his completion from a hollowed-out, as he looks in Victoria, B.C., where he operated a home for paralytic delinquents. A gold-medal winner at the 1986 Melbourne Olympics, Anderson in the following year lifted a table loaded with 6,200 lb in weight, a feat that has never been duplicated.

DEED: Legendary heavyweight boxer Jack Sharkey, 95, who won the championship in 1932 from Mike Schmeling and lost it the next year to Primo Carnera, in Beverly, Mass.

SUNING: Elizabeth Taylor, 52, for \$14 million in damages, the NBC stations network, for a proposed sitcom series on her life that she says will wrongly claim that she was beaten by three of her seven husbands. Mike Todd, Nicky Hilton and Richard Burton

BEST-SELLERS

FICTION

1. *The Color of Forgiveness*, James Kelly (12)
2. *A Sea of Two Colors*, John Irving
3. *The Changeling*, John Grisham (10)
4. *Brother Power's Gospel Hour*, W. P. Kinsella (12)
5. *The Gift*, Jennifer Smith (10)
6. *The Bridges of Madison County*, Robert Wright (12)
7. *The Horseman's Daughter*, Stephen King
8. *The Stone Diaries*, Carol Shields (10)
9. *Playing in the Ashes*, Michael Goss (12)
10. *Death City Girl*, Jane Lee (12)

Compiled by David Robinson

NONFICTION

1. *In the Absence with Paula*, John Grisham (12)
2. *Kids Are Worth It*, Esther Clemons (12)
3. *Moving Beyond Words*, Gloria Steinem (10)
4. *The Protection of the Morning*, George Orwell (12)
5. *The Way We Are*, Margaret Chase (12)
6. *A Journey Through Economic*, Peter, John, Kenneth, and Kenneth (12)
7. *Mathematics*, Douglas, John, and John (12)
8. *The Trials of Eliza*, Elizabeth Taylor (12)
9. *Unbroken by the Light*, John Grisham (12)
10. *The Apples*, John Grisham (12)

Compiled by David Robinson

MACLEAN'S CONGRATULATES **DANNY** **ENS**



THE SASKATCHEWAN AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION 1994 MACLEAN'S DEALER OF EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

Danny Ens began his career in the auto business in the early 1950s, selling cars for Saskatoon Motor Products. Not long after, he opened up his own used car lot on 2nd Avenue in Saskatoon with the phrase: "If you can't make ends meet, meet Ens."

In the late 1960s, Danny became a Toyota dealer agent, meeting the car buying needs of the people of Saskatoon. Then in 1980, with business booming, the Lexus franchise was added to Ens Toyota dealership. Danny Ens is the president of Ens Lexus Toyota in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

With his son Josh working in the parts department at the family dealership, the commitment to the automobile industry continues with the Ens name.

Congratulations Danny!



In the cottage frame of mind

BY CHARLES GORDON

The lake is quiet, the water is calm, there are almost no boats and when one comes you can see, for the longest time, where it has been. The island is out of purpose and terrible noise. It is time to reflect upon human progress once again.

Watching the lake, it is difficult to imagine how this life could be improved upon, but it is an unfortunate fact that our needs change. Without purpose the bridge goes out and the milk goes bad. Without purpose money in its former shape will have to be constructed. Tomorrow, when the shopping trip is made, someone will need a skunk battery, someone else will need a Toronto newspaper, someone else will need a particular brand of cough drops. There was a time when we had heard of a chain store, we need one and it needs gasoline and all said a game for shopping.

A point will be made here eventually, but it is late summer and points are made slowly. If at all. Soon enough, we will all be back in the city, eating points left and right.

The last day of the big less tournament was rainy and cold. The participants, 440 of them from all over the continent, were dressed from head to foot in heavy waterproof gear. Two of them, encountered at the marina, were wearing raincoats on this August day. Their boat was similar to those that would be given as first prize. It had "harmful innervilla" and "proteck connection," whatever they are, walk-through washboard, two sword seats, fish-dep-bus, battery-operated incline motor, and a 200-horsepower engine driving the whole thing.

In their hopes and head-to-foot yellow rain gear, they had been out for 7 1/2 hours, beginning at 7 a.m., and had caught one fish. Two days later, two other people, wearing running shoes, jeans and flannel shirts, spent one hour fishing in a paddle-powered wooden canoe and caught one fish at all. So there is

Gazing out over the lake, it is easy to see the connections between fish and screen savers, skunks and the Quebec election campaign

a definite advantage to business progress, although the price is to be debated.

The resurgence of fish to our society is shown, in a related development, by the return of them that swim, complete with bathing and sound effects, across the life computer screens of the nation. Because of the lack of a purpose-powered personal computer, it is impossible to emphasize that at the lake, but the screen-saver industry has become a powerful engine of the North American economy, perhaps equal in impact to petrol seats and tropical sauce.

Those of you attentive to human progress will remember that idle computer screens are bad nothing on them at all. In fact, they were turned off. Apparently, the absence of fish swimming across the screen did something bad to 30-images were turned into it or something else, and the full force of modern technology was set in motion to effect a solution. Out of that came the dynamic Screen-Saver Sector that we know today.

In the absence of a purpose-powered database it is hard to reconstruct the exact sequence of events, but the fish may have been preceded by winged toasters that flew across the screen. These were quickly matched, as

our free competitive system called for high gear, by fireworks displays, and colonies and, eventually, a computer program featuring the shooting down of winged toasters. This in turn led to displays between software manufacturers and the threat of legal action, the status being quite high in an area so important as what occupies your computer screen when you are not using it.

The latest development seems to be that new screens are being developed that will not avoid screen savers at all, thus threatening an entire economic sector with extinction. As if in anticipation of this challenge, improved screen savers have been perfected, featuring state-of-the-art sound effects. Going down a lake almost accompanied by human progress, except for purpose and sword chairs for fishing, one is only fairly able to recall the tables in what was once the busy computer room of a major newspaper, the computer room having been depopulated by human progress and the late computer looking for someone who knows how to turn down the sounds of the outer space battle emanating from one of the screens that has cost many of his co-workers their preference.

It is too late to save the Screen-Saver Sector? One wonders the question and wonders the first time it occurs to be climbing over and ponders the question of whether there is a bear in the vicinity. Someone said that if it smells like skunk, that could mean there is a bear. Someone else said that if it smells like skunk, that could be an indication that there is a skunk. Somehow, in a state of relative isolation from human progress, the question seems important.

If the government offers necessary assistance to the screen-saver industry, where would that money go? Quebec? Without that purpose-powered database, it is impossible to know, but some Canadian are certainly suspicious. Would it be seen as federal interference in the Quebec election in bail out the Screen-Saver Sector? Someone said the Quebec election was not about independence, it was about the economy. Would that be a factor?

Away from human progress, resigned to at least a day without tropical sauce, one struggles for perspective on the real issues. What if there was a bear on the Quebec election slot? Surely that, rather than independence of the economy, would drive the focus of the campaign. People would want to know, at news conferences and other campaign events, if the bear had been seen, or any bears at all. Had Pearson seen the bear? Did Johnson have something coming about in the night? Did someone cover the garbage? Does the election campaign involve a bear?

Thanks to human progress, Quebecers are feeling with other matters, and good back to them. One is the notion that the Canadian government should contribute to the cost of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Quebec once again, being held in an independent Quebec. Here, a lion started roaring and it is no longer priority to get the laundry off the line.

BIG BROTHER PATROL

A new anti-speeding device enrages drivers but promises big revenues

When Toronto lawyer John Weinograd heads north to his cottage, he is used to watching for traffic police hiding in their favourite spots. But now a new electronic cop will be waiting to zap and ticket him by mail—and there is virtually nothing he can do about it. Last week, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) deployed a photo radar net in the Toronto area that can secretly detect speeders. And instead of getting a chance to beg a roadside cop for leniency, or mist drivers will simply receive a ticket in the mail about three weeks after they were nabbed. Weinograd, for one, does not intend to quietly accept the new electronic traps. He says the system makes a mockery of the law and individual rights, and that he intends to form an organization to deal with it by suing the court system with citizens fighting their tickets. "We have to stop this madhouse law," said Weinograd, "and the only way to do it is to clog up the courts."

There will be no shortage of enraged drivers to protest. Last week, last OPP vans equipped with photo radar were plucking more than 1,000 drivers a day on highways in, and leaving to, Toronto. While some 40 jurisdictions across North America now use similar technology, Ontario, with six million drivers, is the largest area yet to implement the system. Photo radar has been deployed in Calgary since 1988 in Edmonton since last year, and British Columbia is considering its use in the Lower Mainland next year. Indeed, photo-radar manufacturers may spread to highways across Canada as cash-strapped governments recognize its revenue-generating potential. In Ontario, the provincial government hopes eventually to generate \$1 billion annually from speeding fines, compared with the current \$65 million. Said Liberal MP Steve Conway, who fought the measure in the Ontario legislature: "If they are picking the pockets of Ontario residents?"

Photo radar may be the most efficient traffic cop ever. A radar beam, transmitted from a device on the front bumper of an automated police van, catches every vehicle exceeding a



OPP sensor Coast, J.R. Murray with photo-radar picture, photo-radar van (right) "revolves"

specific target speed. That triggers a computerized camera on the van's dashboard that can snap two photos a second. A ticket, along with the photos of the car and its front or back license plate, is later sent to the car's registered owner. The owner is held responsible for paying the fine regardless of whether he was driving the car at the time.

The radar system has already captured thousands of drivers in Calgary over the past six years. Among them is Calgary artist Ken Knowles, who was scored last month as he sped through a 40 km/h zone in the city. Her car was photographed during 57 km/h, and last week Knowles received a \$65 summons giving her 35 days to either pay or challenge the ticket in court. Like most of those caught in the electronic web, Knowles tried to "blow" using a camera in a decidedly unconvincing way. Knowles: "It's becoming a police state."

Calgary police Traffic Sergeant Robert Howe, however, is unsympathetic. He said

that photo radar has encouraged the city's headbashed drivers to slow down—and, in the process, saved lives. Since 1988, more than 135,000 motorists have been caught by the system. In the same period based on the speed of drivers caught, police say, the average speeds on national roads in Calgary have dropped by five to eight km/h and by about 10 km/h on major highways. "We have done our share in getting people home safely," said Howe. "It has saved lives and not costs."

Ontario Provincial Police insist that the new technology will bring down speeds on Ontario roads as well. Last week, in his office overlooking one of Toronto's busiest thoroughfares, OPP superintendent Colin Bolton, who

is in charge of implementing the system, defended photo radar with the resolve of a man who has seen too many mangled bodies pulled from car wrecks. After just four days of operation, he said, he had received dozens of calls from people who claimed that "Toronto drivers, like their Calgary counterparts, were already becoming 'wildman'." And he predicted that a year from now, when drivers realize how much safer the roads are, the program will be drastically expanded to control other dangerous traffic areas. Said Bolton: "I believe that there will be a demand to move this equipment into its next logical use, which is intersection control."

But critics say that the only reason it will be expanded is to generate even more revenue for governments. Brian Lawton, president of PECTIV, a national firm that fabricates traffic signs on behalf of clients, says that police stations used to defend photo radar are now leading because they fail to realize that the technology was introduced at the same time as such other control measures as stop-and-go police patrols. Said Lawton, who also contends that speeding is not a major cause of accidents: "This is the ultimate in law collection."

The potential revenue generated by photo radar is being used as a strong selling point in

Ontario. In his 1993 provincial budget, Premier Floyd Leachman stated that the government expects to earn \$120 million a year annually from the system, more toward the estimated \$1 billion annually after it is in full operation. In Alberta last year, photo radar technology generated an additional \$2.5 million for the City of Edmonton and \$3.5 million for Calgary.

Apart from the irritant of paying more to traffic fines, critics caution that photo radar tramples on individual rights. In 1989, the New Jersey state legislature banned photo radar over privacy concerns. And Thomas Wright, commissioner of the Ontario Information and Privacy Commission, told *Metrowest* last week the system forces people to submit to unconsented surveillance. In future, he added, it could be refined to monitor the movement of virtually every citizen. Said Wright: "This technology has the capacity to photograph every car on the road."

Such sweeping surveillance could ultimately prove to be a boon to the insurance industry. As the law is currently structured, governments in Canada that deploy photo radar are not supplying the insurance industry with data on motorists caught in the system. Nor will automakers receive demand points—another system that the insurance industry uses to

STREET
ENFORCED
BY PHOTO
RADAR



establish premium rates. In an attempt to force public confidence in photo radar, the government decided not to issue demand points, which drivers receive the speeding tickets issued by a policeman. But Toronto lawyer Weinograd said that insurance companies could simply write a check into their client's policies that demand that they disavow any speeding tickets they have received under the photo radar system. If they did not, their policies could be in default. Said Weinograd: "Photo radar will be a wild card for the insurance industry."

People neither can nor will be responsible for paying their own speeding tickets. And the car rental agencies are adjusting their contracts to make sure their clients have no way of dodging the tickets. Norman Lerner, manager of a Rent-A-Wreck agency in Toronto and last week when a car agency receives a ticket, his firm will pay the fine and then bill the client. If a dispute follows, he said the agency can produce a lending contract. Said Lerner: "We have a contract with the time stamped on it, and we can produce it if court if we have to."

Despite concerns over improper use, Canadian courts have so far supported the deployment of photo radar. In the latest of two rulings, in 1990 Alberta Court of Queen's Bench Justice Robert Macgown rejected a driver's argument that photo radar violated his rights and concluded that it does not trample on his privacy. So-called constitutional challenges, a former police officer, and Weinograd argue that drivers should try to foil the system by dragging the courts with challenges against individual tickets claiming that they had been unfairly issued. At the same time, MPP Conway predicts that once people start receiving expensive tickets in the mail, the backlash will be enormous. "People are going to be enraged," said Conway. "There won't be a politician in the province whose ears won't be bugging."

Drivers of being caught may also try to obscure their license plates. Across Ontario at flea markets and auto shows, merchants are doing a brisk business last week selling plastic covers which allegedly black the rider's name. It is not illegal to wear a self-cover, but it is against the law to block it or use plates to obscure the license plate. Some drivers have taken to leaving their license plates muddy, and in a few cases have taped over numbers. According to the Calgary police force's Howe, that has just led to more summons charges. But as the program expands, drivers across the country are increasingly desperate to dodge the invisible cop.

Lost in history's shuffle

Jim Kelley was lucky: while he was at war as a merchant seaman, French in Alberta filed his seal and service records that he sent home as a cardboard box at his command. Among the documents was proof that in January, 1945, during the loading of his merchant ship in Vancouver, Kelley, then 22, broke his left leg, but, which three months later was amputated. In the previous three years, Kelley had crossed the Pacific through dangerous enemy waters seven times. He had lost friends and defended his own ship as a qualified gunner. But it was hospital records from his store of personal documents that finally helped Kelley to cut through the bureaucratic red tape that has prevented many of his fellow merchant seamen from getting the military pension and health benefits they say they deserve. Last week, 49 years after the accident, Kelley received his first monthly veteran's disability payment, a cheque for a paltry \$81. Said Kelley, now 72: "Who was the damn fool? Was it me, for thinking I deserved something more?" Kelley and his colleagues are the war veterans Canada largely—and continues to ignore. After a decade of lobbying by veterans'

Five decades after the war, merchant seamen are still fighting for compensation

groups, Ottawa two years ago granted an estimated 3,300 surviving merchant seamen status as war veterans, making them eligible for the same pensions and health benefits available to the 550,000 remaining solitary veterans with whom they served in the Second World War and in Korea. But Ottawa steadfastly refused to make the benefits retroactive to their time of service. And at hearings before the Senate committee on veterans affairs last week, merchant navy groups argued that they continue to be treated as second-class veterans. With an average age of 76, they face a tangle of contradictory legisla-

tion that effectively limits equal access to benefits. And they are not alone. Other civilian wartime groups, including Red Cross volunteers, have even less. Still committee chairman Senator Jack Marshall: "There seems to be an impression in the mind of the 50th anniversary of battles abroad that veterans issues are disappearing. If anything, these people need help more than ever."

Since Ottawa extended benefit rights to merchant seamen in 1993, about 1,000 have applied for disability benefits. Of those, only 194 have been accepted. The reason, war service records are scattered through as many as 18 government departments and it takes up to three years to process one application. Last March, Secretary of State for Veterans Affairs Lawrence Macphail admitted that the process was curiously "speed was not Parliament's priority objective," he told a Commons defence committee. "Extraordinary fairness was." Priorities have apparently changed. As Macphail told Macphail's son, a group of merchant seamen veterans held the record. "Our number 1 priority is to cut the back-and-forth time in half. There we'll deal with other reduced matters."



Orlowski at Ottawa's National War Memorial, treated as second-class veteran?

There is little argument that recognition is due. At the outset of the Second World War in 1939, Canada's merchant marine consisted of 37 ships and 1,800 seamen. By war's end in 1945, the roster had grown to 346 ships and 12,000 members—the so-called "Swallow's arm" of the war effort that ensured that Canadian troops were armed, fed and provided with

the necessary supplies. The working environment was wretched. Whether sailing alone or in convoys with naval escorts, the merchant fleet—plunged into a nightmare of piercing storms and bombing ships on a blacked-out coast—was the prime target of German U-boats and submarine torpedoes. Of more than 7,000 seamen who sailed in waters classified

by Ottawa as "dangerous," more than 1,300 were lost at sea—the highest ratio of deaths of all wartime services.


Despite their vital service, merchant navy associations cite several discrepancies in the way their compensation claims are handled. For example, many seamen were injured in training exercises or while travelling to and from ships—categories Ottawa still refuses to acknowledge. As well, of those who became prisoners of war, many spent as long as 60 months in prisoner-of-war camps—disproportionate to average incarceration of military personnel. Yet, Ottawa refuses to grant any former POW more than 30 months in compensation. Said 77-year-old Ottawa resident Gordon Orlowski, who was a prisoner of war from 1941 to 1945: "They are not interested in providing fair compensation but only in meeting it after five decades, so can prevent a stilling example of discrimination."

Those have been a few hard fought victories. At this year's annual Remembrance Day service in Ottawa on November 11, a Book of Remembrance listing the names of the merchant navy's contribution to the war will soon be placed in Parliament's Peace Tower, alongside other books honoring Canada's men and women who died at war. After 58 years, Canada's merchant navy veterans no doubt appreciate the gesture—but they would rather have the cash.

E. KYLE PULTON is Ottawa

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A cultural jamboree

Acadians of the world celebrate their survival

Chief Cliff (Tim-Cliff) LeBlanc stood over the steaming cauldron of seafood gumbo on the burgundy and gold table in the Grand Hotel in Quebec, N.B., stirring a huge spoon through the spicy Cajun stew. "We just love this Cajun-gumbo style," he declared, "that's how I tell who my people are." Since he may be hundreds of miles from his home in Abbeville, La., but last week "Little Cliff" was definitely among family. About 4,000 of them gathered—from Louisiana, Massachusetts, France, Quebec and throughout the Maritime provinces—all bearing the surname LeBlanc and descended from a French Acadian ancestor who settled on the bank of a Nova Scotia river in the 17th century. The LeBlancs came to be just one part of an Acadian World Conference that was just one of a series of events to celebrate a celebration of their race by some 300,000 people of Acadian descent from around the world. A clash of cultures? Certainly not, Tim-Cliff declares. "We all come from the same place, we're all Acadians," he says with a shrug, which seems to indicate that he has indeed found the first world on the subject.

In a way, it is to celebrate history, the odds have been against French-speaking Maritimers. From 1755, after they refused to swear allegiance to Britain, 10,000 Acadians were loaded on ships from what is now New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and deported to Britain, France, Louisiana and elsewhere.

Thousands eventually made the long trek back to the Maritimes—a journey immortalized in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's now romantic poem *The Wreck of the Acadian Ship*. Others stayed, clinging, with varying degrees of success, to their culture.

For them, the [delaying] Acadian World Conference, which began on Aug. 13, marked a return to their ancestral homeland. But for virtually all of the thousands of Acadians from around the world who descended on southwestern New Brunswick, it was also a celebration of common roots—and the centuries-old struggle to maintain their distinct French identity. "The Acadians have survived," Antonette Maffei, the Acadian author who was born in Baie-Comeau, N.B., once wrote. "We don't need to fight for survival any more, we did it."

The conference provided an opportunity to bask in accomplishment. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, who represented the nearby riding of Beauport from the end of 1994 to October, 1995, proclaimed the Acadians "our anglophones," and said their perseverance shows how both French and English-speaking people can thrive in Canada. "Like the men and women of Acadia, who have found concrete ways to live in harmony instead of remaining prisoners of old grudges, we form a country that is open to change," he told a crowd at the Université de Moncton.



A Louisiana musician, celebrates at festivities in Moncton, N.B. (left) Christien Belloc, bagpipe songs and rousing songs



The jamboree attracted 115,000 from abroad. Jacques Tison, France's minister of culture, praised the Acadians in the embrace of a modern, entrepreneurial society that has managed to preserve its traditions against long odds. United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali maintained that the peaceful coexistence of French and English in Canada is an example for the world to follow.

Not that the Acadians really needed anyone to affirm their achievement. The order never setting itself did that. Moncton, after all, once had a national reputation for anti-French intolerance, epitomized by the attitudes of Leonard Jones, the city's mayor during the 1970s. Last week, in Moncton and the surrounding municipalities, hundreds of Acadians flag—red, white and blue with a gold star—

hung from buildings and lawnsports while some embraced with *Fleur* (Welcome) covered boules.

Declared Nicole LeBlanc, 25, a Moncton-born doctor now living in Quebec City: "Acadians need to be shy about wearing our identity on our sleeves. Now, we're out of the closet."

In a big way, Conference participants looked to reinvent of Acadian food, sport and film and staged their last in time to the sounds of Quebec's new rock. In the 1970s, New Brunswick's 21st Street and Louisiana's music giant Zachary Richard. They set through serious academic discussions, elegantly toward their Acadian homelands and explored their family trees at a genealogical center.

For many, the family reunion came with a twist. The Acadians. At the gathering of the 19th-century of the Acadians, the Acadians—baptized spirit, musical French folk songs and the piped soul of Louisiana cooking filled the air. Distant relatives hugged each other in greetings, while Acadian strangers in traditional themselves and tried to find where the roots of their long family tree cross. "It was emotional," explained Claude LeBlanc, 60, a retired business executive who lives in Montreal. "It's a Canadian fest. But come here, I truly understand that."

But being an Acadian also means never forgetting the lessons of history. And last week, even as hearts swelled with pride, there was music about the future. Many celebrated the struggle to maintain their identity and language centuries—particularly in the United States, where Acadian descendants are slowly but surely being absorbed by the American melting pot. "My children don't speak my French," laments Paul LeBlanc, 63, a photographer from Fairbairn, Minn., who is also the president of the town's Acadian Cultural Centre. "As the older generation dies off, the Acadian language is going to go with it."

In Canada, they face different problems, even though last week the federal government announced that it will substantially step up protection of French and English minority language groups across Canada. The pro-English Confederation of Nations, after all, faces the official opposition in New Brunswick's legislature. And there is also concern that Quebec separatism could leave a political and economic niche in the Atlantic provinces that would dilute the influence of the province's more than 100,000 Acadians. As for Paul LeBlanc, 63, a retired Canadian National Railways executive living in St. Margare's Station, Que., said, "We've got to keep fighting as we're always doing." And last week, a resolute people served notice that their fighting spirit has never been stronger.

JAMES DUNN/ST. JOHN'S

Quebec's reality check

For the first time, Quebecers who returned to work after their annual summer vacation, began for a few more weeks of summer vacation leaving before real life took over. The shock, early last week, was brutal. Dark clouds, stormy winds and a crash dip in temperature led several to scrutinize the sky for flicks of snow-grenade heading south. But it was the cold weather and the nation-level advertising for back-to-school specials were not enough to convince them that autumn is just around the bend. Quebecers were also hit by a barrage of seasonal campaigns by the Liberals and Progressives, reminding everyone that the campaign for the Sept. 13 provincial election is very much for real, and is getting messy.

The political ads by the Parti Québécois described Quebec as a small, isolated, under-served country and a fast-growing business republic, emphasizing job losses, unemployment, drop-out rates, long waiting lists for child surgery and other ailments. The Liberal government is to be thanked for. Not to be outdone, the Liberals focused their television attacks on the leader of the Parti Québécois, Jacques Parson, and his record among other critics, "The Tiger" and "The Hammer."

Critics coming back to town to discover that the Quebecers are blaming the Liberals for the province's economic difficulties, while the Liberals are the ones keeping separatism on the forefront of the agenda, can be excused for thinking that something went awry in this campaign. And while the thermometer shot back up later in the week, the campaign resumed a new heat.

The heat was set by the controversy over a much-battled leaders' debate between Parson and Liberal Premier Donald Johnston. There hasn't been a televised leaders' debate in Quebec since 1982 when former Liberal premier Jean Lesage closed up on then leader of the opposition of the Union Nationale, in what many view as the dawn of modern-day politics in Quebec. In every subsequent campaign, there has been a raging debate over the leaders' debate. This time, the Liberals-oligarchy the Progressives for making to debate the issue of Quebec's separation. The

INSIDE QUEBEC

BY BENOIT ALBIN

Progressives replied that the Liberals were only trying to deflect attention from their dismal record.

Critics who have grown wary of politicians found their skepticism reinforced. Strategy and overnight public opinion polling seemed to debate the politicians' agendas much more than philosophy—even their policy commitments of the previous week. Parson, after peering at the province's economic state, that reporters estimated to be worth several hundreds of million dollars, came under attack for long an old-fashioned, second-order social democracy. Nonetheless, the Parti Québécois' stance on credibility by openly printing that, he said, he did not believe in it.

If his campaign promises without raising taxes.

Johnston, on his side, was shaken by the approval that Parson's promises struck in a group of public. After weeks of preaching austerity and the need to reduce government intervention in the economy, Johnston came up with his own election plan—a plan to bring new investments by making more money, interest payments on debt.

Both parties have backed themselves into positions strategies. Many have tried to find their way to a dead end. Parson is warring on a wave of doubt. Johnston is easy for him to criticize the government for everything gone wrong in the province. But the Progressives are trading on old debts when it comes to pushing forward their solutions, which call for handing over all of government into the hands of Quebec businessmen—a prospect that is chilling to a majority of voters.

Johnston is no better person. He has spent the first few weeks of the campaign trying to get people not to believe in Parson because he is a separatist. But Johnston has yet to give Quebecers a good, sound reason why they should vote for him.

In other words, confusion, cynicism and apathy. That's what you get as an election where it's the only thing that's the only thing, the leader of the opposition acts as the incumbent and the real issues are buried behind strategies and glib sound bites.

But what's a managing editor of Le Devoir in Montreal.

900 MHz breakthrough!

New technology launches wireless speaker revolution...

Receon develops breakthrough technology which transmits stereo sound through walls, ceilings and floors up to 150 feet

By Cheri Aston

If you had to name just one new product "the most innovative of the year," what would you choose? Well, at the recent International Consumer Electronics Show (which gave Receon's new wireless stereo speaker system the Design

150 feet range through walls!

Product gives you the freedom to listen to music wherever you want. Your music is no longer tied to the room you must sit in with the wireless technology you can listen to your TV, stereo or CD player in any room of your home without having to run the wires.

Yes, you'll never have to worry about wires because the new 900 MHz technology allows stereo signals to travel over distances of 150 feet or more through walls, ceilings and floors without losing sound quality.

One transmitter, unlimited receivers. The general transmitter plugs into a Bluetooth, sub-mini or laptop jack on your stereo or TV component, transmitting music wirelessly to your speakers or headphones.

The speakers plug into an antenna or a sub-mini jack on your stereo or TV component, transmitting music wirelessly to your speakers or headphones.

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Crisp sound throughout your home.

Just imagine being able to listen to your stereo, TV, VCR or CD player in any room of your home without having to run the wires.

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giving guarantees optimum reception and stereo effect. The new technology provides state-of-the-art, interference-free sound in virtually any environment. These speakers are also self-amplified, they don't need to be plugged into an outlet or need your stereo's wiring.

Stations or hi-fi, you decide. These speakers have the option of either stereo or hi-fi sound. You can use two speakers, one on each channel and the other on left, for full stereo separation. Or, if you just want an extra speaker in another room, you can use one and listen to both channels.

Use one speaker. Mono connection both left and right channels for hi-fi sound. This option lets you put a pair of speakers in the den and get full stereo separation and get one speaker in the kitchen and get control.

Factory direct savings. Our commitment to quality and factory direct pricing allows us to sell more wireless speakers than anyone! For this reason, you can get these speakers for below retail with no tax to pay. "Don't miss the opportunity to get these speakers for below retail with no tax to pay." "Don't miss the opportunity to get these speakers for below retail with no tax to pay."

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SPIES UNDER FIRE

Senator General Herb Gray ordered an investigation into allegations that a paid informant for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) helped to create the Toronto-based Heritage Front, the country's largest neo-Nazi group. The federal government said it will also investigate reports that a CSIS informant passed on information about an interview between Heritage Front leader Wolfgang Dierksen and a researcher from CBC's 5B news.

A WITNESS CHARGED

Poison in Barry's Grog, charged murder in witness Robert Dean Gray ordered an investigation into allegations that a paid informant for the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) helped to create the Toronto-based Heritage Front, the country's largest neo-Nazi group. The federal government said it will also investigate reports that a CSIS informant passed on information about an interview between Heritage Front leader Wolfgang Dierksen and a researcher from CBC's 5B news.

REVERSAL OF FORTUNE

The Public Service Commission overturned the dismissal of psychologist Aubrey Rogenville, who was fired from the mannequin-security Edmonton Institute in 1995 after two minutes he recommended he released people were later released in his hands. The appeal board agreed that there was enough evidence to conclude that Rogenville was incompetent, but ruled that he employees did not give him prior notice that his work was unsatisfactory and that his job was at risk.

TEENAGE SMOKING

A new Statistics Canada survey shows that smoking is on the increase among adolescents—and especially among teenage girls. The survey found that 27 per cent of young people aged 15 to 19 are smokers, up from 23 per cent in a 1997 study.

TWICE REMOVED

Ontario Housing Minister Evelyn Gigante resigned from cabinet for the second time after a legislative committee report found that she had breached conflict-of-interest rules by accepting a job with a private company that was a client of the Ontario Housing Corporation. Gigante resigned as health minister after she breached Ontario's privacy laws by releasing the names of a patient during a legislative debate.

Canada NOTES

Debating the debate

In keeping with the often bitter tone of the campaign leading to the Sept. 13 Quebec provincial election, the great debate last week revolved around the burning issue of a debate. More precisely, the debate focused on a proposed province-wide televised encounter on Aug. 29 between Liberal Leader Daniel Johnson and Parti Quebecois counterpart, Jacques Parizeau. Such a debate would mark the first time in 22 years that the leading candidates for the premier's chair

discussing of four major themes, including both the Progressives' goal of sovereignty and the Liberal's goal of a more unified national reform. But the talks came to an abrupt halt late in the week, when Mario Dumont, the youthful leader of the splinter Parti Action Democratique, sought a court injunction to force the television networks to include him in the debate. With that, the PQ negotiators walked out. "We'll have to let the courts sort things out first,"



Parizeau: Progressives are 'afraid of nothing'

Parizeau argued. But once after a judge turned down the request for an injunction, the PQ accepted an unofficially imposed ultimatum to the negotiations, which were scheduled to resume this week. "We're not backing out and more obvious that the Parti Quebecois simply does not want to take part in a debate," charged Liberal negotiator Fernand Labadie.

Most observers agree that the first meeting PQ has little to gain and much to lose by taking part in a TV debate. The Liberals, on the other hand, are counting on a strong performance by Johnson to attract crucial dissident voters. (Although the more recent Liberal-Liberal debate on Friday gave the PQ only a narrow lead over the Liberals, strong dissident voters the gap was much larger: 57 per cent to 37 per cent of decided voters.) By week's end, it was still not clear whether voters would have the opportunity to watch the first televised debate since Liberal leader Jean Lesage defeated Daniel Johnson's father, the chief of the Union Nationale, in 1962. Johnson never formed badly in that debate—and lost the subsequent election.

QUEBEC'S CAMPAIGN: WEEK 4

Liberal Leader Daniel Johnson promised to lead a balanced budget last week, while the Progressive Conservative government's deficit for 1998-1999. Johnson promised to slash government spending by as much as \$1.5 billion a year and to introduce new corporate or personal taxes.

A Grog & Lager poll showed the Liberals leading the Parti Quebecois with the support of 45 per cent of decided voters compared with 40 per cent for the PQ. But with Liberal support concentrated in relatively low ridings, those numbers would not give the PQ a 63 of Quebec's 125 ridings.

"It's not separation or rupture that's important, it's jobs for Quebecers."

—Premier Daniel Johnson

AWARD WINNING WIRELESS SPEAKER

Build an instant music amplifier. The Receon wireless speaker system is the most innovative product in the world. It's the only wireless speaker system that can be used in any room of your home without having to run the wires. The speakers plug into an antenna or a sub-mini jack on your stereo or TV component, transmitting music wirelessly to your speakers or headphones.

Receon's new 900 MHz technology allows stereo signals to travel over distances of 150 feet or more through walls, ceilings and floors without losing sound quality.

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DAMNING THE FLOOD



An exodus of Cuban refugees forces a change in Washington's asylum policy

They have made the voyage by boat, by makeshift rafts—even by sailboat. For thousands of Cubans, the 90 miles of open, shark-infested water between their Communist-ruled island and freedom in Florida has been a measure of both their desperation and resolve: since 1959, when leftist guerrillas led by Fidel Castro overthrew right-wing dictator Fulgencio Batista. Lately, the tide of refugees has risen dramatically more than 7,000 have fled by sea so far this year, compared with 3,606 for all of 1993. Last week alone, the U.S. Coast Guard rescued or assisted at least 2,000 Cubans in the Florida Straits, the highest level since the two-month Miami boat-lift of 1980 delivered 128,000 Cubans to American shores, including many criminals and mental patients. And in their

raids to escape, some refugees have reportedly resorted to deadly violence. Cuban officials claim that a policeman and a naval officer were killed during a recent spate of ferry hijackings.

The flood of asylum seekers clearly worried Gov. Lawton Chiles of Florida, whose most of the anti-communist strong Cuban American community lives. "Hundreds of people, maybe thousands, are lined up on Cuban shores, waiting to leave," Chiles said on Thursday, declaring a state of emergency. "There is no effort by Castro to stop them. In fact, it looks like every effort is being made to encourage them." After first ignoring Chiles's call for federal assistance, a few hours later U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno made a last-night announcement that, "in an effort to deter more Cubans from making their lives," the United States would restrict refugees who arrived without visas. The next day, President Bill Clinton said that refugees intercepted at sea would be taken to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba—effectively reversing a 28-year-old U.S. policy of granting automatic political asylum to virtually any Cuban fleeing Castro's Communist regime. Castro had blamed that policy for the growing crimes, saying that it encouraged illegal emigration and "terrorism and crime" by escaping asylum seekers. But at his news conference, Clinton accused Castro of "trying to export to the United States the political and economic crisis he has created in Cuba."

Certainly, refugees are forcing huge political persecutions in Communist Cuba, one of the last Cold War battlegrounds. According to a recent report by Amnesty International, the number of prisoners of conscience there, many of whom died in the past two years. The report says that many people are detained "because of their peaceful activities in medical, political, human rights, trade union and religious groups, or simply for voicing criticism of the government." But the vast majority of Cubans are clearly escaping increasingly dire economic and social conditions.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and former east bloc abruptly cut 85 per cent of Cuba's traditional trade and aid ties. "The island's sugar exporting, oil importing economy, already bent by a three-decade-old U.S. embargo, was devastated. Domestic production shrank, and exports last year were less than a quarter of the level in the

late 1980s. Castro recently told the national assembly that the country's sugar harvest for 1993-1994 will be four million tonnes, down from a disastrously low 4.2 million tonnes last year and seven million tonnes in 1991-1992. Sugar production has been ravaged by a lack of everything from fuel and spare parts to fertilizers and pesticides. As a result, Cuba's 11 million inhabitants face severe shortages of everything from basic necessities to electric power and cooking gas.

Some of the most glaring examples of deteriorating conditions can be seen in the areas

of medicine and public health, once the pride of Cuban Communist revolution. Mercedes, who did not visit her last name used, is a 40-year-old retired doctor who recently spent a few days as a patient in a Havana hospital. "I was shocked," she said. "The linen was wet. The doctors didn't work. The scalpel was washed with soap and cold water. You don't know what you might catch." Lacking hard currency, the government cannot buy needed medicines and vitamins abroad. Health professionals told Mercedes about a rise in the number of cases of tuberculosis, tuberculosis, meningitis, HIV infection and other diseases. "The most scary thing is that some of the diseases that are around now had been eradicated decades ago," she remembers.

In a landmark speech in July 1993, Castro embarked on a process of cautious economic change. His government has since legalized the possession and use of hard currency such as U.S. dollars, revamped the state firm system by creating a more autonomous co-operative system and allowed self-employment in a range of trades and services. However, Castro made it clear that the reforms are aimed at preserving the gains of socialism, not dismantling it. Indeed, last month Cuban authorities began cracking down on people suspected of getting rich illegally through black market income or the operation of proscribed en-

terprises, such as private restaurants. Under a 1991 U.S.-Cuban bilateral agreement, Cubans with close family members in the United States are highly entitled to emigrate there. If a Cuban's immediate family has such entry visas a year for Cubans. But last year only 864 Cubans were actually issued visas by the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, which functions as an unofficial embassy. In the first six months of this year, another 2,500 Cubans were granted visas. With legal emigration at a trickle, some observers say that the vast majority of distressed Cubans have no other option than to attempt the perilous journey to freedom on rickety boats.

Until last week's policy reversal by the Clinton administration, they did so because a 1966 U.S. law, the Cuban Adjustment Act, automatically grants political asylum to Cubans fleeing their country, and makes them eligible to apply for permanent resident status after living in the United States for just one year. The enforceable result is that Cubans are in a unique position to obtain refugee status, as such, deserve political asylum. A widely praised basis is the political cost wrought by the hardline Cuban American National Foundation and other powerful lobby groups, especially in vote-rich Florida, where the U.S. has a large Cuban population.

Human-rights advocates have criticized the U.S. law, saying that it discriminates against potential refugees from other countries, such as Haiti, who have no such advantage when they apply for political asylum. Refugees must show that they have a well-founded fear of persecution in their home-land—a claim that many fail to substantiate. Last month, the White House announced that Haitian boat people would no longer be eligible for resettlement in the United States. Nearly 35,000 Haitians are currently housed at the heavily fortified U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, a 45-square-mile site on Cuba's southeast corner that the United States gained in 1903 under an unratifiable lease agreement. The Haitians will now be joined by Cuban asylum seekers.

In Key West, Fla., last week, a beleaguered Gov. Chiles said that he might call out the National Guard to help cope with the flood of refugees, adding that access could come at a cost of lives. Chiles, a Democrat who faces a tough re-election fight in November, is under conflicting pressures from anti-Castro Cuban lobbyists and state taxpayers who worry about the costs of absorbing the new arrivals. As he spoke, a Coast Guard boat docked and unloaded 30 more Cubans, many of them bedraggled and badly sunburned. Even after Clinton's policy reversal, an area spokesman, Gomez continued to set all in motion from a beach east of Havana. Said one Cuban in his wheelchair, some of his companions: pulling into a ferry vessel made of tractor tires and wood. "Nothing's going to stop people from going."

Refugees arriving in Key West, Florida (left) escaping political persecution and dire poverty



ANDREW HARRIS with LEONOR MARRAS/REUTERS in Havana



**At last...
affordable cellular
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THE GARDENS PLOT

Last year, Henry Ernest and Steve Stora looked like they were friends. A photo of the two men sitting in Los Angeles showed the two men happily going together for the cigars. Fifteen months later, Ernest, the former owner of the St. Louis Blues of the National Hockey League and the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League, complains that Stora—a Toronto grocery store magnate, is in a bitter conflict of interest. And Stora, through his lawyer and associates, is calling Ernest a "pest." At issue is Stora's \$125-million bid that spring to buy all the shares of Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd.—including the 60.3-per-cent stake held in Harold Ballard's estate and controlled by Stora because he is Ballard's executor—for \$34 a share. Ernest, who owns 3.5 per cent of the Gardens shares, is refusing to sell for a price not set by the market. Last week an Ontario Court judge twice agreed and issued an injunction that prevented Stora from acquiring the last 30 per cent of the shares. The resolution of the contest promises to be more necking than a Stanley Cup played.

The first period ended when Justice Solway Lederman of the Ontario Court ruled that there was enough evidence suggesting that Stora's behaviour was improper for the case against him to go to court. The request for the injunction came from the public trustee, an agency of Ontario's attorney general that is responsible for looking after the interests of charitable organizations. As a result of Stora's \$34 bid, the charities, which include, among others, the Princess Margaret Hospital, the Ontario Crippled Children's Centre and the Salvation Army, will get nothing from the estate. All the proceeds will be used to pay the estate's debts. But Justice Lederman ruled that the executors of Ballard's estate, Stora, Donald Crump, a well-known figure at the Toronto sports community who is now secretary and treasurer of the Gardens, and Terry Kelly, a lawyer from Ottawa, Ont., and a longtime friend of Stora, had an obligation to get "the best price available in an open and informed market."

Ernest claims that, while Stora was making plans to buy the Gardens shares last year, he said nothing, publicly or privately, about the shares being for sale even though Ernest said him that he was interested in buying more shares. Said Ernest: "It was apocryphal to him all the time socially and he never mentioned it again."

Stora, 65, insists his old friend and predecessor at the Gardens, Harold Ballard, likes to keep a low profile. For a man who prefers to avoid the spotlight, last week must have been a double nightmare. Not only was his name aplashed all over the news, but Lederman also drew a comparison between his actions and the duplicity of former president Richard Nixon in the Watergate political scandal. The judge



A bitter fight over control of Maple Leaf Gardens goes to court



The Gardens (left), Stora (below), groaning Stora's recent losses at the Woodbine racetrack outside Toronto on an alleged conflict of interest



also questioned the propriety of Stora selling to both executor of Ballard's estate and as chairman of Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd., the publicly traded company that owns the Maple Leafs hockey club and the 65-year-old arena in downtown Toronto, at the same time as he sought to buy the company's shares.

Among other parties interested in the outcome of the court challenge are John Labatt Ltd. and the new National Basketball Association franchise team, the Toronto Raptors. Both say that they would consider making a bid if the shares were on the market.

Stora, who has refused all requests for interviews since the judge's 13 decision,

was born in Greece, Macedonia and came to Canada at the age of 7. He started his business career by operating a fruit and vegetable stand at Toronto's working-class east end. From that humble start, he built a multi-million-dollar grocery empire in Toronto. Coach H.C. Parson, Stora's personal father has been estimated at more than \$200 million. But despite his lavish homes and his love of expensive homes, he remains active in his business, running before the was most days in visit some of his 10 stores. Stora has also had a long interest in sports. As well as owning Stack 100 racing stable, which ranks among the best in Canada, Stora was also an early investor in unsuccessful attempts to establish professional soccer in Canada during the 1980s. He also kindly covered the Toronto Toronto and the Toronto Hockey Association. Despite his friendship with Ballard, however, he showed no signs of wanting to own the Maple Leafs until after Ballard's death in 1990.

The problems with the Gardens began in the spring of 1983, when Stora, as executor of Ballard's estate, sought approval from two investment dealers. They put the value of the Gardens shares in the \$100-million range. Stora then bought Ballard's estate shares at the higher price and made the same offer to all of the other Gardens shareholders. Ernest refused to sell. He claims that, based on the price paid for the Raptors basketball franchise earlier this year, among other things, the Gardens shares are worth at least \$65 each. Ernest says that because Stora did not announce that the estate was willing to sell Ballard's controlling block of shares, their full value was not realized. Said Ernest: "It was a well-known secret when it was over the Gardens at his time and for his price, without giving anyone else an opportunity to bid."

But Stora's lawyer Brian Bellows, who is also a director of Maple Leaf Gardens, says that there was no indication that anyone else was interested in bidding for them. Crump says that the executives were simply following the wishes that Ballard set out in his will. And he insists that the company has yet to see serious interest from other bidders. "Maple Leaf Gardens is like the Maple Leafs," says Crump last week. "There are all kinds of people out there who, if you asked them, would say that they'd like to own it. But until someone else brings me a certified cheque, I don't take it seriously."

Several sources say, however, that Stora stepped forward to express interest in

buying the company. David Pearson, the former Ontario premier who is chairman of the group that won the Raptors franchise, says that the club, which is committed to providing a new stadium facility for the team by 1995, is interested in the Gardens. He said that the Raptors first preference would be to do a joint venture with the company to build a new facility that could be used for both hockey and basketball. However, he said the group is also interested in buying the shares if that were to happen. John Blown, a Toronto food service operator who heads the Raptors franchise, is related to Stora's father. Stora's cousin, a spokesman for Blown, says that the two have not dealt recently and that their relationship is not close.

Stora's lawyer, John Labatt Ltd., which recently backed away from its making a bid for Madison Square Gardens in New York City. Following Justice Lederman's decision, Labatt's lawyer said that if the estate's control block of Maple Leaf Gardens shares were put up for sale, it would consider leaving them. So did Concert Productions International, a Toronto-based rock concert promoter that is backing the current Bellini Stora tour and is partly owned by Harold Ballard's son Bill.

For his part, Ernest told *Maclean's* that although his immediate priority is to get the best price for his shares, he has also been approached by two groups of prominent Torontonians who are planning to make bids for the Gardens shares if the court rules that they have to be put on the market.

Last week's court injunction is the second public sign of an apparent conflict of interest on the board of Maple Leaf Gardens Ltd. In October, 1991, not long after Stora took over as chairman, two of Toronto's most high-profile business leaders, Ted Rogers, owner of Rogers Communications Inc., which last March acquired *Maclean's* magazine, and Thor Esken, whose family owns Esken department stores, left the Gardens board. At the time, in an unusual public warning that the board was not operating in the best interests of all shareholders, it is required by law to do, Rogers told reporters that the board needed truly independent directors "nominated by someone other than the controlling shareholder" to protect the interests of minority shareholders. Stora appointed his lawyer as chairman, and a few days later he subsequently acted as both broker and seller of the Ballard estate shares.

As for what Ballard would think of the controversy that continues to dog the Gardens no one knows for sure. Crump, a longtime critic, says that Ballard himself knew of the situation when he died. "I've known him several years ago that he had named him as executor," he told me. "I put you on the board, Buck [Ballard's nickname for Crump]."

He recalled last week, "but you guys will be in court for years." That was on the money.

RENEE DALGARISH

A tireless scion keeps on rolling

Morgan Firestone goes his own way with Firan

Somehow, it is difficult to imagine Morgan Firestone barreling down the highway at the wheel of a giant recreational vehicle. The 61-year-old chairman and chief executive officer of Firan Corp., Canada's largest manufacturer of recreational vehicles (RVs), is a silver-haired paragon with neatly combed hair and a good nature. He is also a scion of the Firestone dynasty, who was educated at Princeton University and served as a second lieutenant in the U.S. army during the Korean War. After his father died in 1953, Firestone was groomed to take a top spot at the helm of the multimillion empire founded by his grandfather, Harvey, in 1906. He moved to Hamilton, Ontario, where Firestone Tire's head office was located, to run the family's Canadian operations in 1960. But although he loved Canada, Firestone says he "hated" his father and landed large corporations. As his 40th birthday approached, he decided to take his multimillion-dollar trust fund and run: "I was watching the clock from nine to five when I worked at Firestone," he says, adding an odd number of eels and eels in his office at Firan's headquarters in Ontario, midway between Toronto and Hamilton. "I wanted to do something on my own. And I realized that I had to do it by the time I was 40 or it would be too late. I'd be locked in."

Despite intense family pressure to stay with the tire company, Firestone had a way out and in 1970 he began shopping for opportunities. "The only thing I knew then was that I wouldn't be in the tire business," he says. "I wanted something exciting and fun." Soaking up a 1973 investment in Graphex, a company that makes printed circuit boards for the defense industry, Firestone began to assemble an eclectic array of companies. He made Firan's first investment when he acquired cost-strapped Glendale Corp. in 1975—although, he acknowledges, he had never before set foot in a motor home. Today, Firan's interests include Graphex, a small specialty plastics company, the recreational vehicle manufacturing arm and two companies that produce sophisticated electronic equipment used for air traffic control and navigation. In fact, about the only thing that Firan's businesses have in common is that Morgan Firestone finds them interesting. And even though investors are notoriously reluctant to back

bravely diversified companies, Firestone—who owns 52.2 per cent of Firan's stock—flatly asserts that he has no qualms whatsoever about the hedgehog-like assets. "Investors may not like it, but we like it," he says. Still, there is more than money at work in the structure of Firan, which now employs 1,200 people around the world. Each of the company's two basic divisions—RVs and electronics—has a strong international sales component and a distinct niche market. Furthermore, the highly cyclical nature of the RV business is offset by the steady—and growing—demand for Firan's high-tech electronics equipment. In 1993, the company's sales revenue increased 68 per cent from \$89.5 million to \$150.5 million. About 55 per cent of those revenues came from international sales. In that same period, Firan's net income climbed 484 per cent from \$428,000 to \$2.4 million.

Based upon his experience working with the "purses and cages of middle management" at Firestone Tire, Morgan Firestone—who is now a Canadian citizen—states that he does not want Firan to grow too large. He



Firestone at the wheel of an RV is traffic control tower at Toronto Pearson airport (below) no quibbles about a hedgehog of assets



has set Firan's target at achieving \$250 million in annual revenues, but there are no plans to expand beyond the two core business units and the existing management team. "I learned at Firan that it's a mistake for the boss to try and call all the shots," he says. "People in the field tend to know what will work and I believe that you

have to give them authority." He adds that Firan's lean organization—there are only three corporate offices—makes the operation flexible and responsive, compared with its more cumbersome competitors. With a tight-lip team and a controlling stake in the company, Firestone is also able to exert a personal touch. Among Firan's

directors, for example, is Dr. Nathan Epstein, a professor of psychology at Brown University in Providence, R.I. "I met him through Firan's charitable foundation. He wanted to come on the board, and I said all right," explains Firestone. "Maybe more corporate boards should have a psychiatrist on them." In fact, the only people that he says he would never consider working with are lonely members.

But however individual Firan's corporate vision and style may be, it appears to work. Much of Firan's recent financial performance is directly attributable to its soaring RV sales. Some nine million North American families already own motor homes, and in 1993, total retail sales of RVs reached \$13 billion across Canada and the United States. Through its network of 120 independent dealers, Firan's total motor home sales almost doubled in 1993, and in Canada—where Firan claims a 40-per-cent market share—sales were up 36 per cent. In the first half of 1994, Firan's North American RV sales climbed another 38 per cent over the same period a year earlier.

According to Firestone, the end of the economic recession and the aging North American population have both contributed to the upswing in caravans. The typical motor homeowner is middle-class, 55 years old, and has sufficient disposable income to pay \$50,000 for a basic RV to \$100,000 for a vehicle like Firan's top-of-the-line Starliner model. Over the next 20 years, there will be about 25 million more "vacation" customers as the population baby boom generation hits middle age. And it is in this segment of the population that Firestone is concentrating its efforts to steadily build the demand for Firan RVs. "Whatever other variables are at play, the strategic demographic trend is fantastic for RV sales," says Greg McLennan, an investment analyst with Marston Lemire Securities in Toronto, who follows Firan. "Morgan may be a dabbler, but he dabbles well and with reason."

One variable that has clearly worked in Firan's favor over the past year is exchange rates. Because the bulk of its manufacturing is in Canada, Firan's exports into the United States have cost relatively less in that

market. Currency exchange rates have also meant that Firan's principal U.S. competitors, Thor Industries and Winnebago, are less competitive when they attempt to sell their U.S. made product in the Canadian market. Last year, Firestone's determination to dominate the North American RV market led Firan to acquire Champion Motor Coach—now renamed Firan Motor Coach—located in Elkhart, Indiana.

While the RV business booms, Firan is also expanding its electronics division. Last February, it acquired control of Ferran Avionics Ltd., a British manufacturer of ground-based radio navigation equipment. Firan has also won 20 per cent of Deane Inc. of Gaithersburg, Md., a company that produces customized communication switching systems for air traffic control, since 1991. Although the two companies will remain as separate divisions, Firestone says they share the same customer base and can, therefore, coordinate their sales and marketing functions. And even though Firan confronts such global giants as Thomson Corp. and Loran Systems in the electronics sector, Firestone points out that Firan, his focused on a narrow, highly specialized niche within that broader market.

While Firan's strengths Firan's European business base, Deane has major contracts with the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Navy. In addition, the division, which is currently spending \$445 million to upgrade the equipment at several U.S. airports. The budget for that program is based, in part, on a special storm tax act, as a result, it is not subject to the same budget constraints as most other infrastructure projects. Says Firestone: "That equipment needs to be upgraded and I improved every seven to 10 years. And it's one area where no one is willing to cut corners." He also says that such emergency economic powers in Canada and the U.S. are also likely to encourage further equipment made by both Firan and Deane.

As the electronics arm of Firan matures, Firestone says he may eventually separate it into a distinct corporate entity—a move that investment analysts support. "Such a decision would make more sense after the electronics division attains a larger critical mass," says David Beck, who analyzes special situations for Research Capital Corp. in Toronto. "We would view such a restructuring as being quite positive." But whatever terms he shreds down the road for Firan, there is no question that Morgan Firestone will be in the driver's seat.

CHRISTOPHER HANSEN/STYL

Business NOTES



FIGHTING SPIRIT: Some 1,800 dairy workers in Montreal took a day off work to protest the high level of liquor taxes in Canada. According to the Association of Canadian Distillers, federal and provincial taxes now represent about 83 per cent of the cost of a bottle of liquor in Quebec. The industry argues that such a high level of tax is encouraging smuggling and is jeopardizing the jobs of distillery workers.

A trusting parent

In the aftermath of the recent collapse of Confederation Life Insurance Co. of Toronto, the Senate building committee will conduct hearings this fall to determine whether the government should change regulations that govern life insurance companies and to investigate whether programs to protect policyholders need changes. Federal regulators pulled the plug after Confederation Life was unable to negotiate a \$600-million cash infusion from Great-West Life Assurance Co. of Winnipeg and other industry players.

According to information that has surfaced since Confederation Life's demise, many of its problems lay with the aggressive real estate lending practices of its subsidiary company, Confederation Trust Co., shut down by federal regulators on Aug. 11. Established in 1945-1946, the trust company embarked on a lending

spree at the end of the 1980s property boom, boosting its assets briefly to \$1.2 billion. By 1991, the trust company's mortgage portfolio was as serious as any as a result of the recession. In 1992, regulators restricted its activities to such things as investing in high quality bonds and building existing loans. Consequently, by early 1993, Confederation Trust had racked up losses of \$60 million in a three-year stretch. Investment dealer firms (IT) were hired to seek a buyer for the trust company but was unable to find one.

Last week, Sea Life Assurance Co. agreed to buy one of Confederation Life's main non-credit subsidiaries, Confederation U.K. Holdings Plc. The price of the British company, which has an estimated book value of about \$200 million and was considered to be Confederation's strongest asset, has not been disclosed. Legislators expect that Confederation's group life and health insurance policies will be sold on the block.

A BITTER PILL

The Ontario Securities Commission (OSC) issued a ruling making it easier for a hostile \$2.4-billion bid for Lac Minerals Ltd. of Toronto to proceed. The OSC ruled that if holders of 66 per cent of the gold-mining company's shares except a bid from Royal Oak Mines Inc. of Vancouver. Lac's so-called poison pill, designed to prevent a hostile takeover, will not now affect. With the plan in place, Lac's directors could have made the takeover by Royal Oak or trust bidder Assenon. Barmick Resources Corp. much more expensive. At the request of the OSC, Royal Oak withdrew its offer for Lac to Aug. 22 from Aug. 19.

TRADE RECORDS SET

Canadian exports and imports jumped to record highs in June. According to Statistics Canada, Canadian exports of goods soared to a record high of \$18.2 billion, breaking the merchandise trade surplus to \$1.7 billion in June. Exports are up by \$1.4 billion over May. The agency says a lower dollar and continued growth in the U.S. economy are responsible for the surge. Imports also increased to a record \$17.1 billion, up \$449 million from May.

JOINING FORCES

A new pharmaceutical giant was created when American Cyanamid Co. of Wayne, N.J., capitulated to a \$113-billion buy-out offer from American Home Products Corp. of Madison, N.J. The offer for Cyanamid represents a 10-per-cent premium over its share price at the time of American Home's first bid.

INFLATION STAYS LOW

The annual inflation rate for July was 0.2 per cent, according to Statistics Canada. That figure is up from zero in June and annual 0.6 per cent in May. Economists note that the Canadian government's election of such a low rate of inflation should help to strengthen international demand for Canadian bonds and improve the performance of the Canadian dollar. Without reduced taxes on tobacco, introduced earlier this year, the inflation rate would have been 1.5 per cent for July.

THE FEELING IS NOT MUTUAL

Canadian investors withdrew more money from mutual funds than they invested—\$562 million more in July—for the fourth straight month, according to the Investment Funds Institute of Canada. The heaviest category was money-market funds. The greatest net outflows were among foreign and domestic stock funds.

THE NATION'S BUSINESS



Breaking the unwritten contract

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

There has been a kind of unwritten contract between Canadians and their insurance companies that, even if it is on Earth remains unpredictable, once they die their surviving spouses, kids, relatives or favorite charities will be taken care of. That bill was terribly shattered with the recent bankruptcy of Confederation Life, once the country's 51th largest insurer, whose roots stretch back to 1921.

To run into the ground a company with a stellar reputation and assets of nearly \$20 billion that was healthy only five years ago could not have been even for the crew of misbegotten incompetents who ran the place under Patrick Burns, ConLife's CEO at the time the investments were made that have now sunk it. With the company since 1990, Burns seemed determined to turn Confederation Life away from its profitable core insurance business into some sort of fiscal superman, that of that design involved going around Ottawa's most restrictive insurance firm prohibitions by establishing Confederation Trust. That trust company also should operate in a low-asset regulatory environment to pump the company's portfolio up with commercial real estate, mainly in urban Ontario, whose values did not sink like Haggis Duns in a supernova.

In other words, Confederation Life gambled with the policy holders' monies. That's unforgivable in any business. In insurance, it should be a crime.

Some of Confederation Life's 230,000 policyholders will be forced to take heavy losses (estimated at up to \$800 million) on the funds they had invested for their retirement, their sons' and daughters' educations, and all the many worthwhile reasons Confederation Life's sales agents gave them to buy the policies in the first place. Bill Ashburn, president of 1984's Insurance Services, which publishes an annual industry index of Canadian insurers, predicts that Confederation Life's re-

Confederation Life gambled in real estate with the policyholders' funds. That was unforgivable.

covery will set off several other bankruptcies among Canada's 150 life insurers. From his gloomy front sheets down the general impression, held in this country only recently, that the insurance industry is financially healthy. "I hope most Canadians recognize," he told me, "that these financial institutions are businesses, businesses that don't have a God-given right to survive."

That may be, but there seemed good reason for heavy hits in the industry. Until Confederation Life's downfall, there had only been two relatively small life insurance failures: Montreal's Co-operative Mutual Life Insurance Society (with a resultant loss of \$180 million) and Calgary's Sovereign Life, both in 1982-83.

Although laws for the current catastrophe are difficult, almost the only fact clear at the moment is that Paul ConLife, the ex-CEO, now the man who appeared presiding last October, got there far too late to salvage the situation. His best efforts were frustrated by Great-West Life's prolonged hesitation about whether it should be a white knight or a vulture—to buy out the company or pick up its pieces. Once those facts, later, in the time it took to decide, alternative salvation plans elapsed.

More to the point is the questionable role played by Confederation Life's board of directors at the time the real estate acquisitions were being made. Adam Zbaransky, who played the board after most of the team had been close, has already publicly complained in *The Globe and Mail* that "the company's control and reporting systems were inadequate to the task" and that the directors "didn't know what was happening and didn't understand it." If they knew it, in 1989, for example, when most of the questionable investments were being made, Confederation Life's board included such Canadian Establishment luminaries as bygone-looking Jack Rhoads (founder as being the only corporate chairman who rode his bicycle to work), former University of Toronto president, Charles Binelli, Anthony Griffiths (the Miel Corp. turnaround artist), Toronto's great-uncles son, George Mann, the Montreal corporate legal genius André Messier, and some guy called Gerald Black. These and the other directors didn't only have the responsibility most board members are supposed to bear on behalf of shareholders. There was a more exacting task. Confederation Life is a mutual not a stock company, which means it's literally owned by its 230,000 policy holders, whose savings and protection are supposed to be the consequence.

When I asked Michael Macleod, an former superintendent of financial institutions (who performed his job with good conscience if not enough regulatory clout) how safe the industry is, he insisted that "aside from our work, there is a very strong set of internal disciplines which make insurance very different from banks or trust companies. On the whole, the safeguards have been working quite well but there's no doubt that a number of companies got too deeply into commercial real estate. What happened in Confederation Life is just another reminder that life insurance is really a confidence game—in the sense that everything depends on the public feeling a sense of confidence in an institution."

He blames the drop in real estate values directly for the failure of the three insurers. "Since 1982," he says, "we've had the greatest drop in commercial real estate values in Canada since the Great Depression of the 1930s. So there was a major, major erosion of values. No surprise to me that, with the kind of leverage being increased, a few companies got into trouble."

Tougher regulations on how insurance companies can invest their funds must be immediately implemented. The companies are guardians of the premium payers' funds, not gamblers. But more than that, corporate directors must begin to be held responsible for their actions. The knowledge that they would face a class action suit if they ignored the policyholders' funds might focus their minds and actions wonderfully. The time is long past when corporate directors can remain inebriated with what a British judge once called "the knowledge that if they're going to be paid for being in charge, they better let it be."

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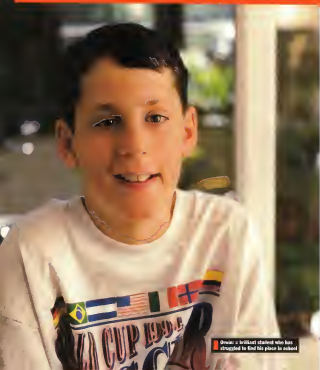
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Bright kids, bright futures?



Owen: a brilliant student who has struggled to find his place in school

Spring, a glass of milk and tucking into the first of two chocolate truffles, Alex Owen looks for all the world like an average 11-year-old. But as the freckle-faced kid with the gap between his front teeth begins to talk, it quickly becomes clear that he is anything but ordinary. "I like to make a lot of jokes and get into silly moods," he says. "But I also like doing math. I perform significantly above grade level." That is perhaps it exactly. Around the time he turned 4, Alex had taught himself to read by making his way through the *Field Guide to North American Trees*. By the time the Toronto student entered Grade 3, he was easily completing Grade 8 math projects. He is also a chess whiz, a Scrabble buff (although not too many kids will do that with me) and a composer of songs, having recently completed *Person-on-the-street* (a musical about mental illness), a contest entry in a rare hang-database—and to the longest word in Alex's dictionary. But while he is a brilliant student, Alex has also struggled to find his place in an education system that is often ill-equipped and ill-equipped to nurture its gifted children—the best and brightest kids, whose superior intellectual, artistic and social abilities leave them bored and unchallenged in the regular classroom. "We never expected one-on-one instruction," says Alex's father, Clifford, a professor of political science. "But we also did not expect there to be rooms of red tape every time we found a program that worked."

In fact, Alex's plight is typical—and so is his father's deep frustration. Although in recent years, researchers have doubled their estimates of the number of gifted—now believed to be 30 per cent of the children in public schools—classes geared to their needs are actually given low priority. Many parents are giving up on the public school system altogether, heading to more costly and exclusive alternatives, the Owens will pay \$5,500 in total. Alex at the semi-private University of Toronto Schools this September. Others are waging fierce battles to preserve the few programs that do exist, as groups recently demonstrated as much of a B.C. school board in a successful effort to prove that kids had been diverted from gifted classes, another thought to say a one-year stay of execution for an established program in Montreal. In the process, they are also raising fundamental questions about whether Canadian schools are committed to giving all kids a fair shot. Where are principles of equal opportunity, they ask, when a child in Grade 2 reads at the Grade 5 level—but her Winnipeg school refuses to test her skills until Grade 3? If kids are given any longer for gifted classes in Toronto, what will happen to the 12-year-old who produced a historical novel inspired by *Field Trip* in a city without a gifted program? With de-streaming—the grouping of students of mixed abilities—becoming the latest fad, will the strongest student from a struggling public school, for example, get an equity share of excellence? And so many other questions that up their commitment to gifted students, what price will Canada pay for permanently defining children with special talents in children without special needs?

One in five kids is gifted—and likely being shortchanged at school

BY VICTOR DWYER



resources and methods of money, and put these things together in a logical product." As well, Binns and others argue that reducing intelligence to a single number, standard IQ and achievement tests fail to detect children who are extremely strong in some areas—but weak in others. "The child who is in the extreme example," says Kowesky, "but all gifted kids have a range of talents."

At the same time, Binns advocates a teaching style that combines drill with challenge, with an emphasis on developing higher skills in areas where the student shows particular strength, creativity and what he calls "task commitment." According to many researchers, that combination of encouragement and challenge is crucial to nurturing the brightest young minds. "Gifted students are good at managing a lot of information and they are highly aware of where they want their thinking to take them," says Kowesky. As a result, she adds, those who teach such students face a difficult task: how to take the traditional teacher's role of a teacher-becoming.

Toronto's Joanne Elmer of Hypon Public School teaches at a so-called part-time resource centre, which draws gifted Grade 7 and 8 students from regular schools on day each week. Broadly based on Binns's method, Elmer's classes were started last year not only by the building's 12-year-old resource, but also by a parent who published three pieces of na-

The students at the centre of concern are those who have the potential to shine by global standards. The 20-year-old figure, broadly accepted since the late 1980s, replaces decades of uneven formal wisdom that put the total at no more than 30 per cent of all kids—some with an IQ of 145 or higher. By contrast, the new research, however, which includes just over one million Canadian students in elementary and secondary schools—represents a recognition that "intelligence quotient" tests fail to measure a broad range of important talents. Now, researchers include in gifted not only traditional academics, but also those who stand head and shoulders above their peers in such diverse areas as creative writing, abstract problem-solving and dispute mediation. "We think there are lots of genuinely exceptional children out there," says Louise Kowesky, a professor of education at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. "There is just very little consent about doing anything about them."

Convinced at the high costs of ignoring the gifted, a committed minority of Canadian educators is working hard to meet their needs. And although teaching styles differ greatly, most of those who work with such children employ an approach pioneered by American psychologist Joseph Renzulli. A vocal critic of IQ-based notions of intelligence, Renzulli insists that each tests reflect the values of a consumer society, rewarding those adept at repackaging information. In his work, the University of Connecticut psychologist has issued a call to arms to locate and nurture "producers of knowledge and art—those who know how to control and analyze their own thoughts, make appropriate use of advanced resources and methods of money, and put these things together in a logical product." As well, Binns and others argue that reducing intelligence to a single number, standard IQ and achievement tests fail to detect children who are extremely strong in some areas—but weak in others. "The child who is in the extreme example," says Kowesky, "but all gifted kids have a range of talents."



we and mother who sold hand-made jewelry to the gift shop at the Royal Ontario Museum. "Gifted kids do not respond to piles of rote learning," says Elmer. "The important thing is just to make sure you give them a balance of direction and freedom—that you do not restrict serious work with creative activities."

But for parents and teachers on the front lines of gifted education, there is an even more pressing concern: finding, and preserving, gifted programs for their children. Although Ontario has the strongest legislation of any province, guaranteeing "that each school board provide special education programs and services for its gifted pupils," critics say such a promise is hopelessly vague. The situation is most pressing in the Toronto area, although long waiting lists are routine. The Toronto Board of Education, with 77,800 students, offers only 15 full-time classes at elementary schools scattered throughout the city, and three such programs at the secondary level. As well, there are 11 so-called pull-out elementary programs, similar to Elmer's, which rotate students one day each week. Although those classes were originally assigned a maximum class size of 16, that figure number will edge up to 23. Elsewhere in Toronto the offerings are even slimmer. In the James-Park North Catholic Separate School Board, in southwestern Ontario, "a wide variety of programs" have been "basically wiped out in the past couple of years," according to curriculum consultant Terry Crisp. "We have decided, in general, to settle for a few one-day and afternoon pull-out programs," he adds. "Even here they are a dying breed."

In many provinces, it is only the vigilance of parents that is keeping gifted programs alive. Last June, parents in western Manitoba managed to win a year's reprieve for a 16-year-old program serving five schools. Several months earlier, the Gifted Children's Association of British Columbia, a parent group, asked ministry officials to conduct an audit of the North Vancouver School District—and had their worst

"Gifted kids do not respond to piles of rote learning."

Joanne Elmer

suspenses confirmed: The district had collected \$61,000 from the province for gifted programs, but was making no effort to identify gifted children—let alone tailor classes for them. Meanwhile, the Calgary Public School Board, with 56,000 students, has only one school, Queen Elizabeth Public, with a gifted stream, with only 250 students enrolled in North Scotia, one of 22 school districts after formal gifted programs. Says Norah Maier, a Toronto educator and past president of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Education: "As a nation, we are at a low point."

And Canada is slipping fast against the competition. Several European and Asian countries are devising significant strategies—and developing gifted and talented students' lives. Some are even taking a leaf from Canada's volume on the subject. Last November, Maier hosted a delegation of 30 Malaysian educators and politicians keen on viewing gifted classes in Ontario. "It is not a half-measure," says Maier, "but catches are turning back the clock here, just as others are making a point of exploiting on what few insights we have gained."

Canadian public schools appear to be serious initiatives in the opposite direction—towards an increasingly uniform educational product. Starting last fall, Ontario high schools began a three-year process of de-streaming Grade 9 classes, eliminating a system that has long segregated students based on their academic abilities. This September, Alberta will begin offering a single high school diploma, partly in response to concerns that a 19-year experiment with "poor" and "advanced" streams left some students feeling, in the ministry's words, "second rate." Critics of special programs for the gifted echo that sentiment, insisting that segregating students according to their perceived abilities thus creating

a "typical effect"—superior programs inevitably producing superior graduates—while leaving other students with a second-rate education. "You certainly don't want a structure," says Paul Gagnon, director of the Institute for Social Research at York University in Toronto, "where some kids are channelled into one-way, dead-end paths."

Educators of the gifted battle at such tilt, citing what they see as evidence of Canada's failure to cultivate creativity: dismal scores by Canadian students on the most complex sections of Ontario tests; grade science facilities where a third of the spaces, on average, go to foreign students; Egypt, they say, pays a price for such a state of affairs. Among the critics is Ros Chastkies, a national co-moderator of the Small Valley Division, which runs summer courses for gifted teenagers at night Canadian Universities. "As a country," says Chastkies, "we have to realize that even the smallest citizen benefits when we cultivate the strongest."

But for parents of the gifted, the toll has more immediate, bared, even spookily between children who risk the risk of drifting academically by Toronto student Lagan Pappas, now 18, and Vancouver's 17-year-old son of one of the few full-time gifted programs in his area, began bating his teachers in kindergarten. In Grade 1, he was officially declared a sociopath by a psychologist. No one, it seems, had thought to ask the child's intelligence. Says Lagan's father, Joe, who moved just outside the city to Mississauga in order to secure Lagan's spot in an elite gifted classroom: "Lagan was found to have an IQ of 187. Obviously,

early, a teacher trying to run a class of 30 quiet-or-less regular five-year-olds gets easily frustrated—and easily threatened—by a child like him." Since then, chairman of the department of educational counseling and psychology at Western's UBC University, warns that diminishing the needs of students like Fletcher is a recipe for disaster. "It is like asking a size 10 shoe to go on a woman's foot," says Storr. "It's an insult, and if he is asked to do it often enough, he will eventually just turn out."

Still, while advocates of the gifted are clearly determined to see the needs of such children addressed, American educator David Likier has issued a cautionary note on the subject. In both his best-selling book, *The Mismatch Child*, as well as in *The Gifted Child Strives*, to be released next month, Likier argues that many of today's parents have begun pushing kids too hard and too early. "In our society," Likier told Maier, "a parent has to be incredibly careful not to confuse the desire that their child be gifted with genuine giftedness." But even Likier cautions against directing parents who live their exceptional talent is going to waste. "Certainly, these are gifted kids who are not challenged enough in regular classrooms, and you want to ensure that," said Likier. "Good parents should be concerned that their kids get a competitive edge—or at the very least that their strengths do not get squandered."

Where gifted children can best maximize such strengths is a matter of much debate. Largely due to budget constraints, most schools addressing the needs of exceptionally bright children do so within the regular classroom—a situation that many experts insist, in fact, for the best. Teachers are able to present students in alternative ways, to give them more responsibility and to tailor the regular curriculum for the student children. While such students can devote the balance of class time to more challenging work, being part of a normal classroom can give them a solid grounding in such basic skills as time management and social communication. "Often, more able kids want to spend all their time thinking at the highest level," says Don Lewis, a curriculum consultant in Calgary. "But sometimes they need to come back to earth. The average kid can do these things but 'Gifted' ones can't." Also, years in regular classrooms with teaching staff have to get along with other children. Cecilia Orsini "There was a time when Alice would say to slower kids, 'You're not finished that question yet? Why not?' To him, it just didn't make sense. He'd be in a room to say, 'Gifted? What will you get it?'"

Still, along with the Orsini, many observers clearly remain skeptical about long-term integration of gifted children in the regular classroom. Michael Thomas, a retired consultant for gifted programs with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal, says teachers find with integrating class sizes and increasingly diverse student bodies remarkably easy their brightest students short date. "Teachers elated over and over they will take care of the gifted," says Thomas. "In the end, they often simply cannot." As well, Thomas and many others are deeply suspicious of a growing trend to broaden brighter students into teachers' aides—engaging them in non-teaching educationally "peer teaching" of average and slow children. "What that really means," says Thomas, "is gifted kids are put to work feeding into the slow stream, and the slow stream is put to work feeding into the gifted."

For Thomas and many others, the ideal solution is to provide the gifted with their own teachers and classrooms. "You all their friends have to be gifted, but at the point where they are being taught, these kids have to know that it's OK to have a million questions, to want to make a lot, to be excited about learning," says Margaret Walker, past



Maier: 'High human potential has to be sought out' by the gifted.

Global report card

Maier: brightest outlook for Asia

Assigned has been twice for North Miss, past-president of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Education. Maier, who is also an education professor at the University of Toronto began her month in Seoul, addressing more than 2,000 delegates to the third Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness, from South Korea, she flew to Buenos Aires to participate—along with 150 educators and educationists from Portugal and North, Central and South America—for the first Inter-American Conference on Gifted and Talented Education. For Maier, the two conferences reflect a recognition shared by a growing number of countries, the potential importance of developing the talents of their brightest young minds. The Asia-Pacific conference, the latter, was co-sponsored by the presidents of all the South Korean universities, and sponsored by Ponte Miraflores Young South. "But these," says Maier, "offer a rare mix of expertise and interest in nurturing the potential of the gifted population."

In global terms, the so-called New Economy, built on high technology and rapid innovation, is having an enormous impact on education. When work was largely mechanical, an education system that taught by rote

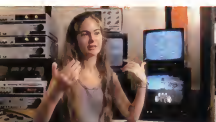
was sufficient to prepare the workforce for manual employment, and the nation for a healthy gross national product. But rapid advances in technology demand a more evolved labor force, one whose workers are highly trained—and highly imaginative. Policy-makers and decision-makers, with the newly independent countries leading the way, are re-examining how they teach their citizens—and how intensely they focus on their most gifted children. "In the learning society," says Maier, "high human potential has to be actively sought out and cultivated differently."

In some instances, business people themselves are propelling the change. Turkish businessman Beyaz Turhan has established the Beyaz Foundation of Education in Istanbul to educate the most academically able youngsters from the country's impoverished and disadvantaged classes. In Hong Kong, The Jackie Chan, a wealthy private association, has contributed \$2.5 million to the ministry of education for research into identifying those who are exceptionally intelligent, not only in mathematics and science but in creative and social studies as well.

The educational outlook is perhaps brightest for gifted students in Asia, where countries with booming economies, and few natural resources, are putting a high premium on human capital. In Singapore, the ministry of education has established an office for gifted education. As part of its mandate, it is to identify and nurture the talents of the gifted. In Japan, where the traditional emphasis on teamwork and conformity have left little scope for individual expression, educators are beginning to focus on the needs of more resourceful, imaginative students.

Still, progress is far from uniform. Germany has a long tradition of identifying students as young as 11 into separate schools leading to vocational, polytechnical or university options. That Israeli practice, however, is coming under increasing attack from parents and educators with concerns that it sends a child's life too early. The U.S. government administers a program to help schools identify and serve the brightest students—although it depends on local authorities for implementation. In Britain, meanwhile, decisions of lobbying by the National Association for Gifted Children have been consistently vetoed by government officials who, says the association's executive director, "are wary of any gifted programs as 'welts'." For the brightest kids in any country, politics can be a crucial part of pedagogy.

BARBARA WICKENS



"Now I am thinking about Harvard. In my regular classroom, Harvard would have been out of the question."

Rhea MacDonell



Students 'gifted kids are put to work feeling slower brothers, rather than getting lost'

president of the Ontario Association for Bright Children. "They have to feel," she adds, "that this [is] to be a merit."

Even short-term associations with other gifted programs can provide an educational and psychological boost to such students. This summer, 15-year-old Rhea MacDonell of Inverness, on Cape Breton Island, was one of 56 gifted teenagers chosen to take part in the Stratford Valley Program of the campus at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S. The program, which brings together teenagers with a record of good marks, creativity and initiative, includes courses ranging from philosophy to computer science, and aims, in the words of coordinator Chappuis, "to tell gifted students that there are other people like them, who worry about what they worry about, who understand what they are interested in—and who are hungry, like them, for real challenges." MacDonell is 95-percent average at Inverness High School, made her way to Stratford in last Grade 11, class—her school had no special programs for the gifted. "When I came here, I thought I would go on to work at a hospital in Inverness to receive a rehab clinic," says MacDonell. "Now, I am thinking about Harvard. Inverness, in its regular classrooms, Harvard would have been out of the question."

Clearly hoping to bring that kind of enthusiasm into their classrooms, some public schools are in fact making a special effort to attract gifted students. In 1991, the Montreal public board created Rosey Vale, a so-called magnet school whose explicit aim is to help promote a "broad-based gifted and talented environment in that city. To accomplish that goal, Rosey Vale has set aside 30 per cent of its spaces for gifted students. And each September, says teacher Cliff Blackburn, children outside the gifted program "who show initiative and commitment" are encouraged to meet formally with parents, teachers and fellow students in an effort to gain admission to the advanced stream. The result, says Blackburn, is working towards registration—and an

great claim that slow learners are "not academically in school," notes Blackburn's Stacey. "When it comes to gifted children, such principles just go out the window. They're doing out what average kids get to a somewhat good enough. That just is not fair—the equal treatment of students in category." And he is fair to all children, schools must give them the tools, and the opportunities to be their best.

By JOHN DORRANT in Halifax

apparent victory for public education.

But like full-time programs for the gifted, such offerings reflect the determination of local school boards—and remain the rare exception. That reality has been of public school enrollment and the benefits of talented youngsters, now a feature on the academic scene (page 42). "Public schools that do not create learning programs for bright kids are at serious risk of falling," those parents in a sharp chorus," says McGuffin's Stacey. "And when they do learn to provide schools, parents are almost certain to find teachers and administrators comfortable with building on students' strengths."

Among the most renowned of such institutions is the University of Toronto Schools, which offers classes from Grade 7 through high school. Partly funded by the province since its founding in 1955, it too has suffered from fiscal restraint, and will see that support erode this school year. But although its rolls have already climbed from 51,000 in the early 1980s to \$5,500, 950 students from 80 schools competed for its 78 learning spaces this year. That is 200 more than applied only two years ago—and principal A. Fleming credits the opportunity to the school's unyielding devotion to getting smart kids safe. "Educationally, we are doing what is done in other areas every day," he says. "In our natural sport, we do not handicap good hockey players by putting them with ones who don't have as many skills—not if we expect them to win, anyway."

Across the country, the fully private, decade-old Choice Learning Center in Richmond, B.C., uses standard achievement tests to choose its 300 students, 6 to 12. The school, where normal tuition is \$9,000, compares the private still continues into 40 per cent of class time. During the balance of the day, students are put into classes of between six and 10, where they pursue areas of personal interest ranging from mathematics to drama to French. Founder Helen Grano, a former public school teacher, started the school after hearing complaints from parents that parents "indulged with a system that says, 'If I am 7 and you are 7, we must be the same intellectually and creatively.'" Adds Grano: "Public schools do have to educate the masses, but why can't they be a little kinder to educate the very bright kids as well?"

That note of consideration should serve as a warning to other educators. Ultimately, creating more public school programs for the brightest has to be seen not only as a matter of cultivating excellence, but also as an example of educational equity. "Everybody needs with learning disabilities," says McGuffin's Stacey. "When it comes to gifted children, such principles just go out the window. They're doing out what average kids get to a somewhat good enough. That just is not fair—the equal treatment of students in category." And he is fair to all children, schools must give them the tools, and the opportunities to be their best.

smart beginnings

Probing the roots of superior intelligence

Spotting children with exceptionally superior intellectual abilities is not all that difficult. They are the ones, educators say, who ask a lot of questions and learn quickly. They often have a well-developed sense of humor and a pronounced interest in ethical issues. But figuring out what ingredients go into the making of gifted children is not quite so easy. Most experts in the field believe that two key elements are involved: genes, which determine the brain's ability to process information; and the environment in which the child grows up. Both factors are important. Every child is born with a unique brain, and scientists have only recently begun to understand why some work better than others. Knowledge that any one day lead to chemically enhancing an individual's intelligence. At the same time, says Max Cysander, a professor of epidemiology and a brain researcher at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, a child who receives a lot of attention in a stimulating environment will almost certainly have a better chance of doing well. "If all your parents ignore you and there is no book in the whole house," adds Cysander, "you may not reach your potential."

Cysander and other experts believe that there are specific periods early in a child's life during which environmental stimuli critically affect the brain's development. The scientist's own pioneering work in the field of vision has shown how natural pathways for the brain can be influenced by events in infancy. A minor injury that closes a child's eye for a few weeks during the first year or two of life, says Cysander, can affect the eye's ability to transmit information to the cortex—the brain's central processing system. The point is that permanently reduced vision. Other brain functions have similar critical periods of growth. According to Cysander, the key period for language development is between the ages of three and 10, while life's social skills are formed—or solidified—by interpersonal experiences both in childhood and adolescence. "If a child does not get the right kind of stimulus at the right age," adds Cysander, "the neuro-epigenetic circuits will not develop properly."

Other researchers have uncovered evidence that demonstrates that some children are born with brains that have a superior ability to process information. Joseph Rapin, a professor of psychology at Cleveland's Case Western Reserve University and an authority on infant intelligence, describes a typical experiment in which a three-month-old baby is shown a picture of a man. The picture is then shown



Cysander with daughter Madeline: 'If there is no book in the whole house, you may not reach your potential'

in the baby again, paired with that of a woman. A baby with normal or above-average intelligence will focus on the woman. Others are slower to realize that they have already seen one of the faces, and may be less interested in novelty. The Case Western Reserve has developed a widely used test, called the Bayley Test of Infant Intelligence, that is based on the way infants react to new things. "You can predict later intelligence from tests of novelty preference," says Rapin. "If a mother is baby at five or six months and he does well, and I come back and test him at four or five years, the chances are he will score well then."

Although scientists are only beginning to understand exactly how the brain works, Rapin thinks that it may eventually be possible to develop drugs that will raise intelligence levels. Mental diseases are the result of biochemical processes in the brain, speculates Rapin, "and when we understand the biochemical basis of mental illness, it could be changed by putting the right chemicals in."

So far, most scientists admit that they have little understanding of the factors that make for different scores between the brains of individual babies. "It may be that some brains are able to make stronger connections between brain cells or that they have greater elasticity, or that they are able to produce more of the proteins used in the brain during critical learning periods," says Cysander. "I do not think anybody knows yet what an efficient brain looks like." Still, he adds, intelligent parents do have increased odds of producing a better potential in superior brain.

Believe being an expert in the brain's development, Cysander has learned about gifted children from his daughter Madeline. The eldest of three children, the eight-year-old is currently enrolled in a school for gifted children where she is simultaneously in grades 3 and 5. "It was reading when she was 13 months old," recalls Cysander. "Did I teach her? I think she taught herself. But I spent a lot of time with her. I never talked down to her. I concentrated on nurturing her brain as my first child, and providing her with emotional security." As well, Cysander's experience appears to support the belief that gifted children are usually the first born. His two younger daughters are also gifted, but not to the extent that Madeline is, he says. Adds Cysander: "I think it is just that you have more time for the first one—a suggestion that only serves to underline how genetic endowment and childhood environment combine to make some children gifted."

MARK NELSON

The tutoring boom

"The sand the fl food the Ast"

When eight-year-old Joshua Gold came home with that sentence in his workbook, it was the last straw for his mother, Jane Joshua, a Grade 2 student in Waterloo, Ont., who attempted to write "They shared the little food they had." Determined to find out how

top-notch students writing overline is quality for the night private school or university—or simply hoping to improve their grades. Parents are spending thousands of dollars on tutors—and often enrolling their children much earlier than ever before. "They used to bring kids in Grade 6 or 8 when everybody knew they were in trouble," says Mary Stephen, executive director of the nonprofit national service Education Alive

Halton. "Now parents are coming in when their kids are in Grade 1 or 2."

In fact, many educators are alarmed at what they see as a growing tendency to push children too hard, or to overreact when schoolwork slips. Clare Kowach, a former public school teacher who now instructs at the University of Toronto's Institute of Child Studies, believes that parents are susceptible to popular misconceptions about the pace of learning. One of the most common is that a child should be reading by Christmas at Grade 1, and writing by the following March. Rather than turning to tutors, Kowach believes that parents should consult the teacher and help their children with homework, as well as such basic skills as reading and writing. "We often try to push our kids over the top," says Margaret Walker, past president of the Ontario Association for Blind Children. "I just hope we don't drive our kids to lose their childhood, that we give them space to wig out and be silly."

But while many educators reject a rate of tuition, most parents seem convinced of the value of tutoring. Across Canada, one of the most popular choices is Sylvan. Each centre is owned by a franchisee who spends up to \$100,000 for the rights to a geographical territory. The Sylvan centre and learning materials. Company rules stipulate that each facility must employ a qualified teacher as educational co-ordinator. Teachers—teachers or university graduates—work with up to three students at a time. The key to the coun-

try's approach is to reward students for their accomplishments, rewarding them blue-and-white tokens—such as which they can purchase pencils, erasers or other classroom tools.

Meanwhile, Kowach has built a success story on the subject many kids love to hate. Founded in Japan in 1958 and now operating in 28 countries worldwide, Kumon has grown more quickly than 50 years, through a combination of aggressive marketing and lower prices. Parents pay \$45 to enroll a student, followed by monthly payments of \$60. Franchises sell for only \$600 plus a royalty fee on each student. According to Mohamed Rahim, 45, an engineering graduate who operates franchises in Ajax and Wharby—two bedroom communities east of Toronto—Kumon relies on old-fashioned techniques and values practice, discipline and memory work. Students are expected to perform repetitive drills as a daily habit. The goal is to complete the work within a set time limit and to be in high level of accuracy before advancing to more difficult assignments.

"I didn't get very good marks on my last report card," confesses Ingrid Schenckle, a 13-year-old Grade 5 student. "I love this. I'm going to keep doing it."

Not everyone who turns up for tutoring is having trouble at school. For many parents, the hope is to help a good student into an even better one. Nancy Cameron, 42, an ex-teacher who owns a retail cosmetic store in Halifax, and her husband, Robert, a 41-year-old account-

ant, spend close to \$20,000 a year on private school tuition for their three children. As well, they send their daughter, Taylor, now 11, and about to enter Grade 6 at the Amherst Academy in Halifax, to a tutor three hours a week. The reason to improve her study habits, even though her marks are above average. Their son Robert, who is 16 and an A student in Grade 11 at Kings Edward School in Windsor, N.S., has had several years of tutoring to improve his writing and study habits. "When I went through

what have set their sights even higher. Most of his Asian clients estimate 35-per-cent increases in marks and scores but need to boost their language marks from the high 80s to the low 90s. Says Rajani: "The school system has written them off. Teachers said they can't get much better. So they come to us."

Increasingly, teachers and tutors are collaborating when kids need extra help. Private instructors at several centres across the country report that they usually consult the

classroom teacher to re-evaluate the curriculum, rather than simply repeating it or offering conflicting material. Some school boards, meanwhile, have responded to the tutoring phenomenon by offering their own supplemental programs. One year ago, the North York Board of Education in its Fairness to Parents launched its Family Math Program in which parents and children come one week with a teacher at school after hours to prepare the parent for tutoring the child at home—and to make better study skills a collective responsibility. The board is now working on a similar program to promote improved literacy. "It is a response to parents thinking their kids are not getting enough homework," says Ross Perry, the board's director of public affairs.

Although most tutoring with scores during the school year, the growing demand now keeps many companies operating throughout the summer months as well. Eleanor Evans, executive director of the non-profit Vancouver-based Teachers' Tutoring Service, works with 2,000 students a year, says parents often expect their children to perform well from the start of the school year, even in elementary school. "There is a great deal of parental anxiety out there," adds Evans. "They used to call in a panic in May to get their kids ready for June tests. Now, they are calling in the summer because they want their sons and daughters prepared for the fall."

For a growing number of parents, even in elementary school, education begins in the classroom—and it certainly does not end there.

BARBARA JENSEN

Canadians are investing thousands in after-school education



so that we feel we have exceeded a level of our peers," says Margaret Walker, past president of the Ontario Association for Blind Children. "I just hope we don't drive our kids to lose their childhood, that we give them space to wig out and be silly."

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Aisha Richard tutoring at the Sylvan Learning Centre in Waterloo, Ont.; prepared for fall

"There is a great deal of parental anxiety out there."

Eleanor Evans, Teachers' Tutoring Service, Vancouver, B.C.

university, all you had to do was show up," said Nancy Cameron. "They won't let you do that any more. Now, you need good marks just to get in."

In some cities, the tutoring boom is also being driven by the influx of Asian immigrants. Doris Rajani, 45, co-founder and manager of Cascade Home Tutoring Ltd. in Edmonton, says his service provides instruction to roughly 300 students a month during the school year. One-quarter of them, mostly Asian, are high achievers

Fun and Games

The tone in
Victoria was
mellow

I was a very Canadian person. On a low ball, a pair of scarlet-clad Minutemen stood still and erect on the parade grounds, their faces lit up with shining smiles. The Minutemen were their own men, a few hundred local agriculturists, veterans honouring the Canadian spirit and a clutch of recruits. The occasion was a reception in Niagara this day in November 1945, when the Canadian troops of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division, which began in Victoria on Aug. 18, 1945, 400 Canadian athletes were in hand, dressed in red ceremonial uniforms, and on the crest of a small stage: former Commonwealth and Olympic gold medalists Silvio Fischer and Mark Tewksbury offered the team encouragement in the competition ahead. Politicians and athletes alike were present, and that made every event theirs. There was the anticipated announcement that member Angela Chisholm would carry the flag, followed by a salute of O Canada, with everyone trying to sing the national anthem in their own language or in their own dialect. There, everybody relaxed and bled to the rhythm of the music.

McLow in fact is the lone indigenous in Visions in the Common world with prominent part off to a start at keeping with their traditional roots, the "Friendly Carpenters' Tree," an Australian boy official managed to test the prevailing good will with a starting task on the mullins of 25 colorful folk among the more than 100 people who gathered for the opening ceremony. The tree was planted by the captain of a post-graduate South Africa to the Commonwealth fold after an absence of 36 years. Meanwhile, the choice of Chicanos, a Sioux Indian, as Canadian flag bearer helped extend the General's embrace of aboriginal peoples. "It was honored to carry the flag," the middle-distance runner, who has won Olympic bronze and Commonwealth gold, said in the musical applause of her ancestral language. Other native runners also took to the track, including a young people who were the first to carry Colombia's national flag and a woman who will still there. Dearest Christmas Indian Chief Wille Seymour is a welcoming cry on the Victoria waters. "This is First Nations country."

Later, the state theme provided the dramatic centerpiece for 75 hours of pageantry filled opening ceremonies in Victoria's Centennial Stadium. In a stunningly staged dramatization, more than 300 performers wedding giant props brought to life a Keweenaw creation legend that recounts how the first man, born from the belly of a mus-



Canadian weather
Paul Rogers:
Chubers leading
the boat home
(right): 'Everybody
give hands!'

well transformed his youngest brother into eagle down, which he cast onto the wind to float around the Earth and populate it with peoples of different tongues. "You," naive narrator Daisy Sewid Smith told a multinational audience that included Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip and Prince Edward, "you are descendants of the eagle down that Kwakwaka'wakw scattered all around the world so to match the history of my people, and I thank you."

That tried but spectacular history lesson aside, the athletes' arrival was clearly more focused on the competitions that begin the next day. Wayne Sorenson of Calgary and Jean-François Senécal of Lac du Quai, won the first medals of the Games on Friday, capturing gold in the men's pair air rifle competition. Canadians also struck gold in men's gymnastics, where Niko Pictet of Montreal, Steven Nunnagard of Aurora, Ed. Kerian Sharley of Truro, S. N., and Richard Toole of Richmond B.C., successfully defended the team title. Canada won four years ago at the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh, four years ago at the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland, and four years ago at the 1994 Commonwealth Games in Victoria. The women's pair air rifle competition, which started on Friday, was the second place medal behind the Australians, who have been left in a poor job expected of the Aussies' pre-setting total of nine gold medals on the first day, the race from their winners.

Away from the competition, Australian chief of mission Arthur Tunsill created the biggest sensation with his ill-considered comments on the physically disabled. Speaking at a press conference, Tunsill repeatedly described the Games' precedent-setting inclusion of disabled athletes as an "embarrassment" to able-bodied competitors. And the former boxer compounded the controversy by pushing a reporter during a late-night scuffle in the lobby of Victoria's staid Congress Hotel. The following day, the fact-checked *Australian*'s news editor dominated

of its otherwise routine news coverage, with officials of the Commonwealth Games Federation. Pressed by reporters to discuss the cultural, religious and ethnic tensions among the nations of the host country, he asked in essence, "What is the problem? In the US, do you have hate?" As it turned out, Tantalus indeed deluded the news media to turn it from what he would a page-long written response. The next day, Australian officials pointedly placed three wheelchair athletes at the head of their team as it paraded into the opening ceremonies.

By contrast, the once diplomatically shrewd South Africans returned to the Commonwealth Games positively radiating middle-class gentleness. The hastily assembled South Africa team of 112 athletes and coaches may have been strikingly late in candidature, but

severe criticism and drew confusion over when the country's black majority, that athletes and officials alike insisted that the embassies was not out of step with their country's rejection of its racist past. South African Sports Minister Stephen Tshwene, who insisted the apartheid policy of apartheid for the team's skewed demographics, continued to insist that the appeal had been selected strictly on the basis of merit, added Tshwene: "We have no problems for the composition of the team at it." The South African team's initial captain, Marcus Rost, who was to compete on the world circuit, was also a member of the team. "We're trying to make a statement," he said. "We're trying to make a statement in South Africa and this is a start. We are looking past race in our country, and we would appreciate it if everybody else would."

Other breeds that have dogged previous versions of the Commonwealth Games, as well as the larger Olympics, were largely all but absent from the first week of the Victoria Games. Although thousands of RCMP officers—on foot, on horse, on bicycle, in a truck, in a plane, in a boat—were assigned a variety of tasks, including to locate and remove any unauthorized vehicles or boats, no recent Olympics was televisually absent, except at the entrance to the Athletes Village, on one entering Games' sites was obliged to pass through a metal detector. At the same time, while this week's competitors held a continuing potential for distraction, by week's end only one athlete—Niger swimmer Usain Eapen—had violated rules against the use of performance-enhancing drugs. And, in the end, the Games' officials found banned steroids in his luggage. Elsewhere, men stole hoodies.

Meanwhile, viciously swung into the spirit of the Games in ways ranging from the spiritual to the downright lewdly. At Christ Church Cathedral, flowers overflowed the nave and vestry in a special display mounted for the occasion by southern Vancouver island's nurseries and gardeners. The estimated 80,000 extra tourists who are visiting the city for the Games could catch a display of another sort down the street. There, a blonde with the stage-name of Bionette who has cut 34 other strippers last June to seize the title of Miss Nude Commonwealth—a demonstration, not a medal event—strutted live stage nightly at Moxy's Showroom Pub.

But the real focus of Wildfild Festivities was the city's busy downtown waterfront, where crowds began gathering at dusk for a series of free concerts set against the sparkling backdrop of the promenade's lights reflected in lakes. Headlining the opening night's show was Vancouver-born country singer Luis Brinkley. For all the Nashville stylings in her music, the dark-haired singer holds strong views on the family of nations whose cause she helped to celebrate last week. "Musicians," she remarked, "it is kind of a crazy world out there. With all the so many different people from different countries. I feel it's a way of bringing our world together."

inter Chairmen had much the same thought when a postscript to her remarks. Citing a native saying in Sioux and then in English, the willowy runner extolled at the Games, "Everybody, play happily." With it, it was a message that most people in Victoria are willing to hear.

CIRIA WONG et al.

The quest for a special victory

Jocelyne Bourasseau has impeccable credentials for her job as executive director of the du Maurier Ltd. Classic, the last of her "majors" and the last Canadian stop on the Ladies Professional Golf Association tour. For one thing, the 41-year-old native of Shawinigan, Que., is deeply passionate about the sport—although her job keeps her so busy that she rarely has time to play. For another, the former touring pro is the only Canadian ever to win the event, which is played on a different course each year. Her triumph came in the tournament's inaugural year, 1975, when it was called La Chaudière Golf Championship and was played at Montreal. After finishing in a tie with golf legends Sandra Elgueta and Judy Rankin, Bourasseau captured the \$30,000 winner's cheque in a playoff that for times wishing to retain her only Canadian status, she has made no secret of her

desire to see another countrywoman win the du Maurier. "I'd be so overwhelmed with joy," she said on the eve of this week's tournament in Ottawa. "I would probably cry for hours."

She may not need her lucky quartet yet. The 27 Canadiana scheduled to tee it up on Aug. 25 at Ottawa's Hunt and Golf Club will face an elite field, including the five-times competitor who has been crowned as the considerable growth of the women's tour. Such talented Americans as Donna Andrews, Patty Sheehan and Beth Daniel will all be battling for the \$150,000 (U.S.) first prize against long-time LPGA Drivers of England and Italy Helen Alford and Sweden. Competition does not deter Canada's tour regulars, who have shown that they can play with the best.

Coe-Jones: 'we try too hard and end up putting pressure on ourselves'



Beth Blackwood of Toronto, Lisa Waters of Prince Rupert, B.C., Donna Coe-Jones of Courville, LaSalle, B.C., and Jennifer Wyatt of Vancouver have each won at least one previous tour title. But among the Canadians, only Coe-Jones, with a third-place finish last year, has recently come close to winning the du Maurier. "There's a lot more pressure on us than because it is our one chance every year to play at home," says Coe-Jones. "We get more media attention, we try too hard and end up putting pressure on ourselves to do well. That doesn't work in golf."

Waters' golden age in general has been getting more media attention in recent years. After suffering through a bleak period in the late 1980s, when some sponsors and television networks dismissed the women's tour as a poor cousin to the men's game, the LPGA rebounded when it hired Ohio-based TV executive Charles Maclean as its commissioner in 1990. Maclean used his expertise in broadcasting to secure greater exposure for the sport, and helped overhaul its image, turning it into an adventure. And total prize money has increased to \$22 million in 1994 from \$14 million in 1980.

Perhaps the biggest change has been that, rather than apologize for being a woman's sport, the LPGA has become an advocacy

group. It refuses to play tournaments on courses with discriminatory policies (the Hunt, left to drop its men-only rule for one of its leagues in order to host this week's event). The tour instituted a travelling daycare centre so that players do not have to find babysitters at every tour stop. It has made breast cancer research its main charity. And players now donate winnings from private competitions to a fund that supports competitors and their families in the event of catastrophic illness.

Maclean says that, beyond being the right thing to do, the initiatives have raised the sport's profile. "These players are business women whose business happens to be golf, and they are concerned about the same things as women all over the continent," Maclean says. "The LPGA is not just a golf organization—it's a women's organization."

At the du Maurier, the 39-year-old Coe-Jones is probably the best local bet to win. The 13-year tour veteran is the only Canadian to record a victory this season—at the highly South Palm Beach, Fla., last February. And going into last week's tournament in Chicago, she stood 14th on the money list with 1994 earnings of \$100,025 (U.S.). Although she has recently struggled with her putting, Coe-Jones thanks she is regaining her touch. "I wasn't playing very well going into last year's

tournament, and look what happened," she says, referring to her blistering opening round of 66 and overall third-place finish.

For all the players, the major hurdle this week will be finding their way safely around the lush Ottawa Hunt. The 13-year-old course was designed by Scotsman Willie Park Jr., a stellar player and course architect, on rolling hills just south of the capital. Scrambling bays, the undulating fairways rarely offer a level surface, and the wind, lighting last green will require accurate approach shots and a deft putting touch. "When you feel look at it, you think the green will burn it up with really low scores," observes Bourasseau. "But it is much tougher than it looks." For the Canadian players, one of the course's main appeals is its location. "We're really excited about playing at Ottawa," said Coe-Jones. "I've never been there before, so I can't wait to do a little exploring."

If there is strength in numbers, Canadians have certainly increased their chances of winning the classic. There are now 130 women professionals in Canada, up from 25 in 1980, and 11 of them play regularly on the LPGA circuit. But there is no race like the present: capturing the country's biggest women's tournament, the nation's capital is a powerful incentive. "This is our event," says Coe-Jones. "Winning it would be one of the greatest things that could happen to Canadian golf."

JAMES DEACON

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Boin storm: water droplets that scatter sunlight back into space

Global chilling

Manmade sulphates may be cooling the planet

More than a decade has passed since scientists and environmentalists began warning that industrial emissions into the Earth's atmosphere could raise the planet's temperature to blistering levels, turn agricultural land into desert and even melt the polar ice caps. So far, there is little sign of any of that happening. Scientists have detected only small temperature increases over the past several decades—and some regions, including parts of eastern Canada, actually seem to have become cooler. Does that mean that global warming was a false alarm? No, say climatologists, but it may mean that something else is happening to at least partially offset the so-called greenhouse effect, the heat-trapping buildup of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in the atmosphere. According to some scenarios, weather atmosphere pollutants—sulphate aerosols—may be creating sulphate aerosols that alter the chemistry of clouds. The result: larger areas of the Earth are cast into shadow, more sunlight is bounced back into space—and the Earth grows cooler.

Increased cloud formation is not likely to cancel out the warming influence of the greenhouse effect, but it may be reducing it by as much as one-third. The second theory could also help to explain why global temperature patterns are so unpredictable, with some regions of Asia and the north Pacific becoming warmer while parts of western Eu-

rope and eastern North America may be cooling slightly. According to Environment Canada, Alberta and Saskatchewan warmed by about 1° C during the 1980s. But central Canada's weather moderated by only about a quarter of a degree—and parts of northern Quebec and Labrador cooled by the same amount. What the unexpected weather patterns may show, says Henry Hegerfeld, a Toronto-based senior adviser on climate change at Environment Canada, is "just how complex the unfolding of global warming will be. Every time we think we understand what is going on, something else comes along to change all our calculations."

The second theory developed after scientists noticed that records for the past 250 years show an average global temperature increase of about 3° C—significantly less than anticipated if the buildup of CO₂ in the atmosphere is wrapping Earth in a cocoon of heated air. About five years ago, scientists suggested that sulphate aerosols, mainly from the burning of coal in power plants and factories, might be masking the difference. Normally, cloud droplets are formed around particles of sea salt and other specks of naturally occurring material in the atmosphere. Now, thousands of tons of manmade sulphate dioxide, injected into the atmosphere every year, are forming tiny sulphate particles that provide a perfect nucleus for the formation of billions of extra water droplets, which then cluster into clouds.

There is growing evidence to support that

theory. A survey by scientists at the U.S. National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, N.C., last year showed that cloud cover over much of the industrialized northern hemisphere—where most sulphate dioxide is produced—has increased during the 20th century. In the United States and parts of southern Canada, cloud formation has increased by as much as 10 per cent since the mid 1950s.

In the meantime, scientists at Environment Canada, after examining data gathered by aircraft that fly into clouds to study their composition, concluded that sulphate concentrations produce clouds with unusually small and numerous water droplets. According to George Isaac, an Environment Canada cloud physicist, such clouds are more efficient at reflecting sunlight. As a result, says Isaac, they "scatter more sunlight back into space, which has a cooling effect" on Earth. A computer model at the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Col., appears to support that conclusion. Since 1950, says Gay Rowland, a senior scientist at the center, the greenhouse effect has probably warmed the planet by an average of 2.5 watts per square metre—enough energy to heat the planet by about 1° C. But the effect of cloud-generated sulphates in the atmosphere has reduced that number to about 1.5 watts per square metre. "So there is still warming," says Rowland, "but it is not as large globally as it would have been."

Future weather patterns may reflect shifts by western nations to reduce CO₂ and sulphate emissions. But experts predict that the fast-growing economies of China and India will generate new volumes of CO₂, as well as sulphates. Those emissions will probably boost the greenhouse effect—while creating over the Asian giant the same kind of cooling cloud cover that now hovers above western industrialized nations.

MARK NICHOLS



Clockwise from above, the Queen with Prime Minister Jean Charest in Halifax; with Thailand's Naritorn Gossad Chul Edward John in Prince George; at Commonwealth Games, speaking with Prince Philip; Philip at Khatynskaya Valley grizzly bear sanctuary; the Queen with B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt; Prince Edward in Regina; grace and intelligence



PEOPLE

HAIL TO THE QUEEN

On her 10th trip to Canada as her 42-year-old reign, Queen Elizabeth II once again displayed her characteristic grace and intelligence. From Aug. 13 to 29, the Queen accompanied by Prince Philip, travelled to Halifax, Victoria, Prince George, B.C., back to Victoria to open the Commonwealth Games, and then to the Northwest Territories—taking only one day off, Aug. 16, as a private B.C. island as a guest of a relative. And at every stop, the reception that greeted the Queen, scheduled to return to England on Aug. 22, proved that the monarch remains relevant in a new Confederation. In Prince John Sloan, a loyal supporter of the Royal Family who joined 16,000 others to greet Queen Elizabeth in Victoria, put it: "It's tradition."

Edited by JOE CHITOLLEY

Heter-skelter

Oliver Stone unleashes a killer satire

NATHAN BORN KILLER

Directed by Oliver Stone

He is Hollywood's self-appointed conscience man. Director Oliver Stone has spent much of his career denouncing the demons of Southern California. With his Vietnam trilogy—*Platoon* (1986), *Born on the Fourth of July* (1989) and *Rain* and *Heaven* (1990)—Stone tried to purge a legacy of fear, guilt and rage in POW (1991), he portrayed the Kennedy assassination as the work of a conspiratorial cabal. The same year, in *The Doors*, he canonized rock star Jim Morrison as a martyr to Disney-era excess. Now, Stone drafts his full history of demons kicking and screaming into the present, with *Natural Born Killers*, he has made the most subversive, outlandish and incendiary film of his career.

Natural Born Killers is a hallucinatory work of the mind-boggled imagination with violence that has come to define American culture. Woody Harrison and Juliette Lewis star as Mickey and Mallory Knox, two insane murderers in love with each other and no one else, savage punks who become cult heroes as they conduct a killing spree through the desert towns of the Southwest. Although they murder 52 people in three weeks, they are the most sympathetic characters in the movie, which is not saying much. The films include a TV reporter (Robert Downey Jr.) with a wild Australian accent who uses the killers to pump up ratings for his tabloid crime show, *American Sins*; a homicide detective (Tom Sizemore) who is as sleazy as the killers he stalks; and a prison warden (Jeffrey Tambor) who, in a rare moment of honesty, never met his inmates, as is a public-access interview with Mickey upon his prison exit.

Natural Born Killers is a nihilistic bore and a cycle for the '90s that makes Arthur Penn's 1967 outlaw road movie, *Hombre*, look benign, and its nihilism escapes retribution. As a reflexive to shock cinema, Stone's film leaves one scrambling to feel provoked. The actual violence of Sean Baker's *A Clockwork Orange* (1971) comes to mind, but after the lawless carnage in *Natural Born Killers*, even *A Clockwork*

Stone is no stranger to overkill. As a director, he has often been criticized for excess for misjudging the viewer with the shot too—assaulting the senses while leaving the mind unanchored. But in light of his new movie, perhaps the problem with his previous work is that he has not been extreme enough. *Straw Dogs* (with automatic devices, Stone's hyperbolic expressions seem heavy handed—everything it touches turns to melodrama. But in the absolutely height-

ed and intense moments. The movie unfolds with the jarring rhythm of a feature-length rock video, with images of old movies—including Stone's own—tossed into the mix for good measure. In a typical scene, while Mickey and Mallory make out on a motorboat, a rap-like montage of an atom-war, wildlife, confagration, cowboys on Indians—is projected onto the window beside them.

Despite its blemish of imagery, however, the movie is sufficient as standing on its own, as a meditation on Stone's career and dreams. And the violence is relentless, but not stomach-churning. Stone, meanwhile, shows an excellent fear for his satire. His flashback to Mickey's abused childhood as presented as an R-rated scene, *I Love Mallory*. To a religious rock track, her father (Richard Dreyfuss) cracks crude jokes about having sex with his daughter. Coming to her rescue, Mickey slaughters dad with a crowbar and sets her mother on fire.

As the movie goes between violent acts of drama and giddy fun, the latter is serving a life sentence for murder—scenes rarely well cast as a psychopathic killer. And as his swirling, over-the-top acceptance, *Natural Born Killers* goes to establish a raging nihilism that consumed just beneath the surface in previous roles.

As for Stone, in mass murder he has finally found a suitable outlet for his pop-culture directing style. He shows everything in sight, from every angle. Shooting and cutting his way through the banners of American culture. At one point, a television flicks through images of the Moon, the Beatles, Tompkins, Lenny, Lenny, Lenny, the White House, and O.J. Simpson. Like the tabloid media he mocks, Stone exploits bloodshed in his own way. But the film portrays violence as a natural, unprovoked act. The narrative is riddled with images of nihilism in the down-to-earth, cynical world that first surfaced, awkwardly, in *The Doors*, and now seems to be right at home. Mean while, a haunting score tracks Mickey's spiral into one of the film's most mischievous. Three songs by Leonard Cohen (Stone's California buddy in *Buddha*) serve as mantras for the story, including *The Future*, which concludes the movie with the graphic resonance: "The sun the

future, brother it's a wonder." The moral value of Stone's movie is an open-ended as the future of cinema, but it is exactly why it works. *Natural Born Killers* offers an extraordinary thrill—the excitement of seeing the theory, of having witnessed something revolutionary.

BRAND D. JOHNSON

An excursion to hell

Veterans recall life in a Nazi death camp

THE LUCKY ONE: ALLIED ARMYMEN AND BUCKENWOLD (CBC, Sept. 31, 8 p.m., Newsweek, Sept. 23 p.m.)

To be shot down over Nazi-occupied Europe during the Second World War was a hard enough life for Allied soldiers. But to be captured and sent to the infamous Buchenwald concentration camp was an ordeal of another order. Yet that is what happened to 146 downed airmen from several Allied nations, including 36 from Canada, in the summer of 1944, they were stripped of their identification tags and tossed in with the thousands of poor, shuffling human slaves who populated Buchenwald. Oddly, their story has had little publicity—and now a new National Film Board production with the title *The Lucky One* examines a survival of the Buchenwald victims as they piece together their memories of one of the most unusual incidents of the Second World War.

The impetus for the film, directed and produced by Michael Alder, came originally from one of the Canadian veterans, Ed Carter-Edwards. Since the war, Carter-Edwards, now living in the central Ontario community of Ball's, has been troubled by the difficulties that the Buchenwald military prisoners have had in making their story known and accepted. "People just didn't seem to believe us," he said in an interview with *Melrose*. "They would ask us if we were Jewish—they thought that was the only way we could have been in a concentration camp." Carter-Edwards added that, as a result of that doubt, the airmen have spent "30 years as a psychological shell," rarely speaking of their experiences.

In 1991, Carter-Edwards wrote to the National Film Board, suggesting that it make a film about the ordeal. The Board took up the idea and set out in film interviews with surviving veterans from Canada, the United States, New Zealand and Australia. Many of the men were at first reluctant to open up, although in the end some spoke the story as a kind of catharsis, telling stories and incidents that they had kept away from their own families.

Despite an unusual subject matter, *The Lucky One* offers facts and sounds unusually familiar. As style and many of its images

echo the style of TV films commemorating this year's 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings. There is the same black-and-white archival footage of battle scenes, the same informal testimony from "folk" veterans as they slowly pick their way through the European sites of their ordeals. But there are important differences, too. The documentary contains rarely seen film taken inside Buchenwald by the Allied forces that liberated the camp in 1945. The footage shows not only the pathetic, writhing slaves, but also the unrepentant war the Nazis made of



Carter-Edwards (right) in a scene from *The Lucky One*; rarely seen film

many of the dead human skin tattooed with decorative patterns and turned into lamp shades and waffles, and a human head floating in kerosene-filled, split like an apple to reveal its brain and other organs.

In a sense, there is nothing new about such images. The world has long since grown used to it—so uncomfortable with pictures of the Holocaust. But what, finally, is striking about *The Lucky One* is the way it shows the impact of that evil on the Allied airmen, who were little more than brave boys at the time of their incarceration. As Carter-Edwards points out: "We didn't know about the existence of the concentration camp when we were shot down in 1944. We thought we'd be taken to a POW camp or POW camp."

The airmen were luckier than most in

Buchenwald. They did not have to work in hard labor, as did nearly everyone else, and their excellent physical condition and relatively short stay (up to 200 months) meant that of the 368 only two actually died in the camp. They lived until terrible despair and fear, in a place whose inmates were often beaten or shot without reason. They saw the dead stacked like cordwood—and wondered if they would be next. They searched the nearby area from the ovens when bodies were burned. They heard the rumors of torture and humane scientific experiments in the lab subjects. Many carried psychological scars for the rest of their lives, from alcoholism to night fears and crippling emotional inhibitions.

The *Lucky One* does not make high drama, as any of this. The old men talk of their experiences with an almost casual ease of acceptance, but the documentary is made up of the subtlest signs: a sudden silence, a cough in the voice, a loaded glance at a wandering eye. The film leaves the impression that there is still much pain concealed beneath the men's composure.

The documentary reveals almost nothing about why the airmen were sent to Buchenwald, or why they were eventually transferred to regular POW camps. And it sometimes implies that they saw more than they actually did of the camp's darkest secrets. Yet it still makes a forced statement about their experiences. Carter-Edwards expresses the hope that the film might prompt the Canadian government into giving some compensation to the 146 Canadian survivors who are still alive. "New Zealand and Australia have compensated their Buchenwald veterans," he says, "but Canada has done nothing." Yet he is clearly pleased that *The Lucky One* has made the private nightmare of 368 a matter of public fact.

JOHN REMBORE



A guilt complex at the Games

BY ALLAN FOTHERINGHAM

There is a little quiz this scribble conducts when listed in a room that contains more than six Canadians and a bottle of wine. It is to ask them what percentage of the United States population is black. The answers go all the way up to 45 per cent.

It is perhaps understandable ignorance for foreigners. Considering newspaper, magazine and TV coverage of American issues over the problems of black education, black crime, black teenage pregnancy, black single-parent families and black rage, Canada does might as well assume the high percentages.

In fact, the correct figure is 12 per cent, lower city concentrations of the black underclass magnifies the percentages, but there are many American states that hardly ever see a black citizen.

The quiz—possible—with how minorities are treated outside even more so in Canada. The 300 millions around the world exposed to the televised opening of the Commonwealth Games in Victoria would certainly assume native Indians make up a very large portion of our 30 million population.

The magnificently staged event (grandeur and discomposure) by one Jacques Lapage, leader of a group of Indian dancers greeting visitors to their island home. There was a Coast Salish welcome ceremony.

There was a demonstration of bushsmen, the Indians gave that evolved into lacrosse—though the federal brains who mainly paid for these ceremonies have recently recommended that the game be dropped from Sport Canada's payroll.

There was—made for television and not for the spectators or the natives as all these things are—an elaborate Disney like telling of the legend of the Kwakwaka'wakw. It must have looked great in Ketchikan, Langara and Seawall and, Broughton Bays, but it was all so out of proportion.

White guilt is a powerful force. Native Indians make up some four per cent of the Canadian population. Even Canadians are surprised to learn that. At an earlier game

in Dallas. That was several decades ago and Ottawa with its sticky fingers still can't figure out how to do it.

Canada's inability to understand the Indian and the Metis and the Inuit (while losing the drive to kick South Africa out of the Commonwealth) increases, rather than the opposite, with time. The great complexities over Louis Riel letters still. To such an extent that a relatively new statue of him on the Manitoba legislative grounds has just been ordered removed—on the excuse that because he is partially Indian in the sculpture his memory is denied.

The New Democratic government of British Columbia is at sea, trying to counter the polls that show it almost as unpopular as the regime of the professional eccentric Bill Vander Zalm and his Social Credit Success. Its cabinet and premier wobble like sea swine and find

trying to reconcile its intentions to cater to sympathy with Indian land claims and its larger constituency that demands that common sense must take over somewhere.

The lawyers of the province grow rich in the over-reducing disputes that arise from colonial days and end up in the Supreme Court in Ottawa, the city that is the source of most of the problems. Over 100,000, representing four per cent of the population (and not even all of it) becomes a national personality on television because of federal-provincial conferences on the Constitution, Canada's favorite sport.

And so, with some 54 Commonwealth countries watching and the Goodfellow blimp overhead, the old man indignity unfolds.

Canada, which does not treat its native peoples well, pretends to do for world television. The unprovable increase in teen suicides as Indian reserves is not shown for the Queen's birthday and the Super Bowl spectators where—as in Victoria—the most spectators in the arena are a racist crowd, a backdrop for the cameras.

In previous Games, athletes searched in, laid up on the grass, their sweat makes an eye-popping tableau. In Victoria, they are shared out for tents, unattended, unobserved, since the greenwarden is needed for the technical display sent around the globe.

The first medal to the Indian people is now in place. Now that they have been ignored and neglected, there is only one thing to do to them. They are exploited, on world television. Sir General Marmar, Coca-Cola and IBM just some of the major sponsors of the athletic drive.



ART BY J. L. L.

entertainers have never figured out how to understand and accommodate and appreciate the native population since the Europeans landed here, media coverage at most years (gold) has been devoted to an attempt to rediscover the balance.

The staples in Ottawa devised an expression called the feastmaster of Indian affairs and northern development. An issue magazine observers find to mention the Indians thoughtlessly have pointed out, having no government department devoted to "developing" the north—i.e. oil and gas and pipelines—could not possibly be in touch with the senseless bureaucrats who are supposed to be sensitive to native peoples' concerns.

A young and electric cabinet minister by name of Jean Charest, when given the portfolio, vowed that his main goal was to eliminate his own job: get the government out of the way and give Indian affairs back to the

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